

Israeli media get liberal censorship

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's main news organisations signed a new, more liberal censorship agreement with the government on Wednesday. Representatives of the leading print and electronic media gathered in Prime Minister Shimon Peres' office to sign the deal, which maintains military censorship of security-related material but allows appeal to the traditionally liberal supreme court. Amos Shoken, publisher of the liberal Haaretz daily, praised the new agreement as "a very significant breakthrough." Israel's censorship exists on the basis of emergency regulations dating back to the British mandate and is supposed to apply only to information that might "endanger Israel's security." As a temporary arrangement open to all media organisations on a volunteer basis, the new deal is a compromise between the government's desire to further encode the censorship into law and many journalists' desire to be rid of the censor. The agreement leaves the censor in place, maintaining his powers to close down organisations that defy censorship and are not a party to the agreement, and mete out jail sentences.

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Israel reportedly has 'two-Jerusalems' plan

Proposal said to involve outskirts of Holy City as Palestinian capital

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — In negotiations for the future of Jerusalem, Israel will offer the Palestinians to set up their political centre in the city's West Bank suburbs, an Israeli newspaper reported Wednesday.

The publication of the proposal seemed aimed at countering claims by the opposition Likud Party that Prime Minister Shimon Peres plans to give the Palestinians control over East Jerusalem. Mr. Peres has denied the charge, telling voters he would never relinquish "sovereignty" over all of the city.

"I condemn the Likud, which told the whole world we want to divide Jerusalem," Mr. Peres told voters in Tel Aviv on Wednesday.

"Jerusalem will remain a united city... and we will safeguard that unity."

The future of Jerusalem has been a central issue in the campaign ahead of May 29 elections.

Under the Israeli proposal reported in the Yediot Ahronot daily Wednesday, the Palestinians would set up their political and financial centre in Abu Dis and Bethany, two West Bank

suburbs east of the city. Israel would retain sovereignty over all of Jerusalem in its current boundaries, but the Palestinians would be guaranteed access to Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, the newspaper said.

Yediot Ahronot said the "two-Jerusalems" proposal was raised in informal discussions between the two sides. The newspaper said the Palestinians rejected the idea, but were expected to soften their position.

Palestinians have already taken some steps to turn Abu Dis into a political centre. For example, the Jerusalem district office of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is based there.

About 20 West Bank villages with 150,000 residents that now belong to the Ramallah district are to be moved to the Jerusalem district, and will be administered from Abu Dis, said Zuhair Abdul Hadi, head of the Ramallah district.

Negotiations on a final peace agreement, including the future of Jerusalem, began early this month and are to be concluded within three years.

The newspaper said that if

the Palestinians agree to the proposal, Israel would pledge to help raise international funds to make the new city an industrial and business centre.

An Israeli-backed militia said Wednesday its members and Israeli troops staged military exercises Wednesday in the occupied border zone of South Lebanon.

Around 350 officers from the Israeli army and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) attended the exercises by 150 troops in the Majidiya region, south of Marjayoun, headquarters of the Israeli army and the SLA inside the zone.

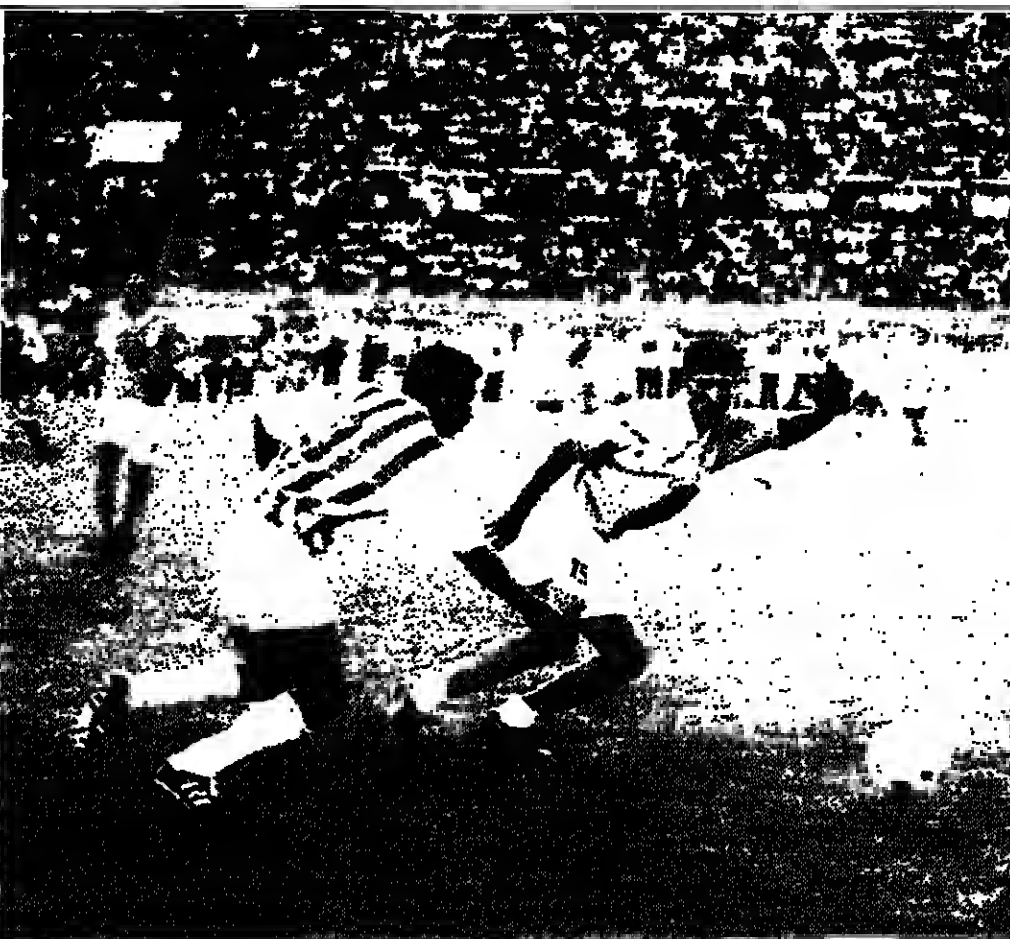
They used live ammunition, tanks, helicopters and armoured vehicles.

SLA commander Antoine Lahd, a retired Lebanese army general, and Israel's commander for its northern territory, Amiram Levin, attended the war games.

Gnoria Inhar, Israel's liaison officer for the "security zone," invited Hizbollah to "come and see these manoeuvres with live ammunition which show the strength of the SLA and its cooperation with the Israeli army."

FAISALI LOSE FINAL

Rateb Al Awadat (#15, right), of Jordan's Al Faisali, tries to prevent Tounzein Aziz (#9, centre) of Morocco's Olympic Khreibkeh from penetrating Al Faisali's defences in the final of the Arab Cup Winners' Cup, staged at the Amman International Stadium on Wednesday. Olympic won the match, attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, along with more than 25,000 soccer fans, 3-1 to take the trophy. Al Faisali made Jordanian soccer history by becoming the first of the Kingdom's teams to play for the title of this elite soccer tournament (see page 11 story)



Iraq says U.N. deal insufficient, should not bar end to sanctions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said on Wednesday the oil-for-food deal reached with the United Nations was not enough to meet Iraq's needs.

Mr. Aziz said Iraq would struggle for the complete lifting of the U.N. trade sanctions imposed after its troops invaded Kuwait in 1990.

"The agreement we reached with the U.N. will not solve our problems. It solves only some of Iraq's needs of medicine and food... there are other humanitarian needs," Mr. Aziz said during a gathering of students from non-aligned countries.

Iraq and the U.N. signed on Monday an oil deal permitting Baghdad to sell \$2 billion of oil every six months to buy food and medicine for its population.

"... (It is) a limited small deal for food and medicine. About 30 per cent (of the money) is going to reparation fund, 10 per cent is going to the (U.N.) Special Commission of Rolf Ekeus and the U.N. activities. So less than 60 per cent is going to food and medicine. They speak about \$2 billion but actually the amount left to Iraq is less," Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Aziz blamed the U.S. and Britain for the delay in signing the agreement and said the two countries had changed "a balanced memorandum of understanding" reached with U.N. on April 10.

Iraqi negotiators with the U.N. were able to rebalance the agreement before signing it, he said.

Mr. Aziz said the accord reached with the U.N. should

not delay the lifting of sanctions as Iraq has met most of the U.N. resolutions it is obliged to implement.

"The agreement... should not be used to delay the lifting of the sanctions or to be used as a pretext to stop discussing and working on lifting them," he said.

The Iraqi deputy premier described U.N. resolutions against his country as "harsh and unjustifiable."

"The resolutions taken against Iraq are a model of harshness and unjustification..." he said.

Mr. Aziz asked France, China and Russia — three countries keen to see an early lifting or easing of the sanctions — to help Iraq in its struggle for a total lifting of the embargo.

Iraqi newspapers said the deal in its present form was

Clinton offers Israel new assurances

NEW LONDON, Connecticut (AP) — President Bill Clinton warned Wednesday that despite progress in the Middle East new conflicts will inevitably arise and he offered renewed assurances of U.S. support to Israel. In a commencement address to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy here, Mr. Clinton said Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians have become committed to peace during his four years in office. In particular, he welcomed Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's pledge to ride the Palestinian charter of all references to the destruction of Israel. But Mr. Clinton acknowledged that new conflicts, such as the fighting along the border between Israel and Lebanon are likely to continue to mar the calm. "Every step along the path to peace the enemies of peace will show their own desperation with bullets and bombs," he said, offering a special word of support for Israel. "As Israel takes further risks for peace in the future, it can count on further manifestations of American support," he said. "We must be with you every step of the way until there is a comprehensive, lasting peace in the Middle East. Now is not the time to turn back, and the United States must do its part," he said.

Regent: Scholars should defend 'Arab identity'

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, warned Wednesday that the "Arab identity" was facing danger and called for intensified Arab efforts to protect it and build a strong Arab order.

Speaking at a lunch he hosted at Basman Palace for members of Arab Thought Forum (ATF) following the conclusion of their annual meeting in Amman, the Regent urged Arab intellectuals and ATF members to help their nation by contributing to sustainable development in the Arab World.

He said Arab scholars should examine the current Arab situation and come up with ideas for ensuring development of education, promoting regional cooperation and striving for food security for the Arab World.

"What is required is to have the right political, social and economic climate to help achieve these goals," said the Regent.

The private sector, he said, must be given a leading role in promoting Arab economies.

"The coming stage requires reconstruction of the Arab countries and regional cooperation," he said.

ATF Secretary General Ali Umleil outlined the ATF's general plans, noting that they cover a number of common issues of concern to the Arab Nation as well as issues pertaining to the Arab-Israeli peace process, democracy and social justice in the Arab World.

Regent meets William Eagleton

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Royal Court on Wednesday the former U.N. ambassador for Sarajevo affairs, William Eagleton, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. Prince Hassan and Mr. Eagleton discussed the U.N. humanitarian role in former Yugoslavia. The Regent paid tribute to Mr. Eagleton's role during the Bosnian crisis. Mr. Eagleton praised Jordan's role in resolving the Bosnian crisis as well as the Kingdom's humanitarian role.

Kuwait MPs to probe 'unlawful' extradition

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A parliamentary committee is preparing a report on the arrest and extradition of a Bahraini citizen which deputies say violates Kuwaiti law, a member of parliament (MP) and human rights activist said on Wednesday. Jameel Abdul Ghani Abdul-Jah was arrested by the Kuwaiti authorities on May 14 at the request of the Bahraini government and sent to Bahrain without any charges being announced. MP Adnan Abdul Samad told AFP, "Nobody knows about (his charges). Even his relatives, his wife, they didn't know anything. He just disappeared suddenly," he said. Interior Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem said Mr. Abdullah had been arrested and extradited to Bahrain for "security reasons," in response to questions raised by MPs on Tuesday. "Even if it is for 'security reasons'... he should have an order from the courts," said Jasssem Al Qattami, head of Kuwait's society for human rights.

Saudi business team to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Saudi business delegation will visit Jordan May 26-29. The delegation, headed by the president of the Saudi Council of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Abdul Rahman Jureisi, will meet with Jordanian officials and private sector representatives for talks on bilateral ties and cooperation.

Lebanon truce panel awaits Israel's okay

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Negotiations on terms for monitoring a ceasefire in South Lebanon broke off Wednesday as diplomats awaited a response from Israel, informed sources said.

The five countries — the United States, France, Lebanon, Syria and Israel — for 10 days have been working on hammering out the operational rules for overseeing the April 26 ceasefire between the Israeli army and Hizbollah.

The five governments weighed a draft accord reached last Thursday. Then, according to a diplomat following the talks, on Tuesday changed the three clauses still presenting problems, and now were awaiting an Israeli green light.

The three clauses were on the frequency of the rotation of the group's presidency between France and the United States, voting procedures for committee decisions and how Lebanese sovereignty in an Israeli occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon would be affirmed in the text.

The zone was set up by Israel, Beirut and Damascus have insisted Lebanese officers be allowed to take part in any investigations by the committee of possible ceasefire violations in the zone.

On voting procedures, diplomats on Wednesday were moving towards participation by the five countries in committee decisions, according to the same diplomat, who spoke privately. The other possibility was a three-way vote, excluding Israel and Lebanon.

The ceasefire monitoring committee is part of the April 26 accord in which Israel and Hizbollah pledged to avoid hitting civilians or the border area but have the right to defend themselves if attacked.

The agreement ended 16 days of fighting that included the shelling of a refugee camp that killed 102 Lebanese civilians who had fled their homes to avoid the Israeli barrage.

Syrian official radio meanwhile accused Israel of obstructing the formation of the ceasefire monitoring committee.

"Israel is carrying out terrorism in its occupation (of Arab land) and does not want the ceasefire accord to become a means of putting an end to the aggression, preferring it to endorse the occupation and the hegemony," said Radio Damascus.

Cabinet announces reshuffling and retirement of senior civil servants

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers, in a regular session on Tuesday, decided on a number of changes affecting the position of senior civil servants.

According to the decisions, announced by the official Jordan News Agency, Petra, three advisers at the Prime Ministry will be retired as of June 1. They are Ahmad Qatani, Musa Jagheer and Hilmi Sarabi.

The three had occupied senior government positions before assuming their positions at the Prime Ministry. A fourth adviser, Marzouk Hadid, was appointed director general of the Free Zones

Corporation, a position assumed by Fahad Qudus until his retirement from office May 20. The appointment went into effect May 22.

The Cabinet also appointed Qasem Abu 'Ain as secretary general of the Ministry of Culture, succeeding Mohammad Naji Amareh, who was named as an adviser at the Prime Ministry. Mr. Abu 'Ain had been a senior official at the Ministry of Education.

The changes affected also key posts in Aqaba and the Jordan Valley. Hashem Shboul was appointed as an adviser at the Prime Ministry after being

replaced as secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority by Dureid Mahasneh, who had headed the Aqaba-based Ports Corporation.

Mohammad Dalabeh, who was director of the Maritime Arab Bridge Company, replaced Dr. Mahasneh at the corporation.

Ahmad Miri Kreishan was appointed as secretary general of the Ministry of Supply, succeeding Mustapha Khleifat, who is now Governor of Maan.

Mohammad Ali Khreifat, a retired general, became an adviser at the Prime Ministry. These appointments take effect as of June 1.

Palestinian journalists protest police actions

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian journalists boycotted the opening of a legislative council session here on Wednesday in protest at police brutality and harassment against reporters and photographers.

About 30 journalists held a two-hour sit-in outside the Shawwa convention centre where the 88-member council was holding its two-day meeting, during which Yasser Arafat was expected to announce the portfolios of his new cabinet and present the government's policy programme.

Zakaria Al Talmas, secretary general of the journalists' association, said the protest was called "to press demands that the council take action to end intimidation of journalists by the (Palestinian) security branches."

The action was organised after police detained and beat AFP photographer Fayez Nonredin last week because the took a picture of children washing a donkey on a Gaza beach that security agents claimed showed disrespect for Palestinians.

The journalists' association submitted a six-page statement to each of the council's 88 members listing its demands and detailing 25 cases in which journalists were detained or beaten by police over the past two years for carrying out their work.

Mr. Talmas said the association wanted the legislative council to adopt formal legislation protecting the media from arbitrary detention and abuse by the security services.

A council official came out of the meeting to announce that the journalists' com-

plaints had been put on the agenda of the Wednesday-Thursday session.

The association also called on the Palestinian National Authority to ban Israeli journalists from autonomy areas because Palestinian journalists are being kept out of Israel during the Israeli election campaign for alleged security reasons.

Israeli authorities cancelled at the weekend 50 special permits issued to Palestinian journalists from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to cover the May 29 elections.

8 more arrested

The Israeli army, reportedly acting on information extracted from a captured Hamas military commander, arrested eight Palestinians on Wednesday on the West Bank, military sources said.

The eight were nabbed in pre-dawn raids in the Nablus and Tulkarem areas of the northern West Bank, the army said.

The sweep brought to nearly 40 the number of suspected militants arrested on the West Bank since the wounding and capture Friday near Hebron of Hassan Salameh, a leading commander of the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

Senior security officials have been quoted in the Israeli press as saying many of the arrests result from information obtained from Mr. Salameh, 25, during interrogation in a Jerusalem hospital where he is being treated for bullet wounds in the back and stomach.

(Continued on page 7)

Labour, Likud use 'secret' polls to sway the undecided

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel headed Wednesday into the last week of campaigning for national elections with the main Labour and Likud parties waging a war of "secret" opinion polls designed to influence wavering voters who hold the key to victory or defeat.

"If you believe the various polls carried out by the two parties, Israel is going to have two prime ministers," wrote political commentator Nahum Barnea in Wednesday's Yediot Aharonot newspaper.

Most independent public opinion polls give Labour incumbent Shimon Peres a lead of around five points over Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu in the race for prime minister, who will be directly elected for the first time in the May 29 vote.

But the surveys also show

that nearly 10 per cent of the electorate is still undecided and pollsters say past experience has shown that a majority of these will drift to the conservative camp come voting day — if they bother going to the polls.

In what analysts saw as a clear attempt to convince these wavering potential supporters to cast their ballots, Mr. Netanyahu called a press conference Tuesday during which he revealed the results of secret Likud polls which put him one to two points ahead of Mr. Peres and in clear reach of victory.

Labour on the other hand has been insisting that all its surveys confirm a five-point lead for Mr. Peres regardless of the undecided vote — a subtle message to right-leaning wavering voters that there is no reason to vote on May 29.

Neither party, however, has actually released the results of its surveys.

"The true struggle between the two large parties is not over the ballots of those who waver, but over whether they actually go to the polling stations," said Mr. Barnea.

"Labour is trying to convince three per cent of the right-wing voters to stay at home, putting out the message that Bibi is not a suitable candidate and will lose anyway," he said.

"Likud on the other hand must convince religious voters and even some of its own followers that there is a chance and they should vote, and so Netanyahu is playing the victory march," he said.

At Tuesday's press conference, Mr. Netanyahu made an explicit appeal for a big

turnout of conservatives on election day.

"Every single individual vote will count in this campaign... We can't afford to lose a single vote because the result will be close and can go either way," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Conscious of how tight the race is no matter which surveys are believed, both Labour and Likud are gearing up for a massive election day operation to get their supporters to the polls.

"Election day organisation will be of paramount importance," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"The difference between winning and losing might in the end prove to have been no more than a few hundred individual votes."

Some Labour strategists have also begun warning that the party's strategy of trying

to discourage potential Netanyahu voters by stressing a big Peres lead could backfire and demobilise left-wingers.

Haim Assa, a Peres election adviser who has clashed with other Labour campaign planners, has regularly warned against the "premateness and exaggerated" optimism created by the opinion polls showing a comfortable Labour advance.

The daily Haaretz newspaper reported Wednesday that Mr. Assa had shown Mr. Peres this week a study he carried out of polls published in recent weeks that indicated a dead heat with Mr. Netanyahu.

Palestinians unexcited over Israeli polls

Large minority believes election will make no difference

DHEISHAH REFUGEE CAMP (AFP) — Palestinians view the Israeli election campaign with surprising apathy in the face of a right-wing challenge to Shimon Peres that could dash or stall their bid for statehood.

The unemployed political pundit at the local cafe here says that despite fluency in Hebrew learnt in prison during the intifada, they cannot really tell the difference between Mr. Peres, outgoing prime minister and leader of Israel's Labour Party, and Benjamin Netanyahu, of the hardline Likud bloc.

Mr. Peres has a precarious five-point lead over Mr. Netanyahu in Israeli opinion polls ahead of the May 29 ballot, when Israelis choose a new parliament and for the first time directly elect their prime minister.

Whatever their impact in

Israel, the television ads used by Labour in its reelection bid have failed to win hearts and minds in this refugee camp of 1,850 families perched on a barren hilltop above the road linking the West Bank cities of Bethlehem and Hebron.

"The Labour Party is afraid to even show Yasser Arafat's picture," grocer Karim Al Atrash said, referring to a Labour ad that shows the president of the Palestinian self-rule authority for a split second in contrast to prolonged shots of Mr. Peres with other world leaders.

"It gives me the feeling that Labour is ashamed they made peace with us," he said.

Mr. Atrash is part of a surprisingly large minority of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — 43 per cent according to one survey — who believe

the results of the elections will make "no difference" to their futures.

The survey was carried out by the Center for Palestine Research and Studies (CPRS), a think-tank in the West Bank city of Nablus.

The public apathy contrasts sharply with deep concern about the elections in the corridors of power of Mr. Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"For Mr. Arafat, Labour's credibility was severely damaged by the killing of 102 civilians in Cana, Lebanon, during last month's Israeli army operation against Hizbollah militants."

"After this, I personally don't care who wins," he said, terming Labour "a snake" that is even more dangerous for Arabs than the nationalist Likud because it sometimes dis-

guises its policies with moderate words.

With the tight military closure, unemployment at over 50 per cent in the camp and little hope for addressing refugee grievances, the situation here is worse than before the 1993 Oslo agreement orchestrated by Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat which paved the way for autonomy, residents say.

The closure was imposed by Israel after militants began a deadly bombing campaign against Israelis in February.

In the camp's rubbish-strewn alleyways there is little hint of the "new Middle East" promised by Mr. Peres. People are getting by on help from relatives or from the United Nations.

"People here do not care about the elections because they are in a state of despair," said Mujahid

Ali Sakka, 29, who worked as a floor polisher in West Jerusalem until the latest suicide bombings.

But some in the camp insist the elections will have an important impact and voice hopes that Labour might ease the closure and soften its policies once it no longer needs to compete for votes.

"Personally I would like Peres to win because I expect Likud to be even more extreme to the Palestinians," said Munir Arafat, who served a seven-year sentence in Israeli jails for his political activism.

Mohammad Deeb, an intelligence officer interviewed while staking out the camp's billiard hall, also backed Labour.

"Through our experience with them, we know they will continue the peace process," he said.



JOURNALISTS PROTEST: Palestinian journalists stage a strike in front of the Palestinian parliament in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday. The journalists were protesting against recent attacks on them by Palestinian authorities (Reuters photo)

New parties hope to widen horizons of Cypriot politics

NICOSIA (AFP) — More than 400,000 Greek-Cypriots go to the polls on Sunday to elect a 56-seat parliament with two new parties battling to win a foothold in the island's long-established political scene.

Although analysts say the poll will again prove to be a tussle between the left and right blocs, newcomers the new horizons and the greens are hoping to give the five established parties a run for their money.

For the first time the polls will be based on direct proportional voting, unlike the old system, when parties had to win at least eight per cent of the vote to obtain a seat, leaving the smaller groups out in the cold.

But this time round voters who have to choose among 415 candidates are being lured with the promise that "every vote counts."

Analysts say, however, the new parties will do little to dent the ruling Democratic Rally (DISY) led by President Glafcos Clerides, which has 20 seats in the outgoing house, and its main opposition, the communist AKEL, with 18.

"The main trend is that the two biggest parties, DISY and AKEL, will emerge with a result very close to their previous one," said Andreas Petrides of the RAI consultancy firm.

New Horizons set up by disgruntled DISY supporters, swept onto the political scene with a campaign based on its opposition to a federation between the Greek and

Turkish-Cypriots, as a way of ending the island's 22-year division.

According to opinion polls the fledgling party will scrape at least one place in the new four-year parliament.

The rival Greens have focused on environmental issues and in particular a hotel development by Foreign Minister Alec Michaelides on a nature reserve and one of the few Mediterranean nesting sites of sea turtles.

Although the party has also done surprisingly well in opinion polls, it is unlikely to enter the house, Mr. Petrides said. "But it is difficult to measure the influence of the new parties because of the lack of information on them."

Campaigning has mainly centred on the parties' well-trodden views on the "Cyprus problem."

The island has been divided since Turkish mainland troops invaded the northern third of the island in 1974, after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling in Athens.

In 1983 the north declared itself a breakaway republic, but it has been recognised only by Ankara.

An increasing crime rate and loss of confidence in the police after several incidents of alleged brutality have also been highlighted during the campaign, as well as talks due to open next year on Cyprus' accession to the European Union (EU).

But the elections are

primarily seen as a dress rehearsal for the 1998 presidential polls, and a test of whether Mr. Clerides will stand for reelection.

His decision could depend on the results of the coalition between DISY, which won 35.8 per cent of the 1991 poll, and its centre-left government partner DIKO. Together they held 31 out of the 56 seats in the outgoing legislature.

DIKO, which gained 19.55 per cent of the 1991 vote, has been split by internal wrangling with dissatisfied supporters leaving in droves, despite efforts to modernise its image.

AKEL, which has over the years softened its communist stand, is likely to court the smaller socialist party EDEK. It won 30 per cent of the 1991 poll, and has wielded a strong influence as an opposition force.

Although opinion polls give it a strong showing again, it is having to fight a rearguard action from former president George Vassiliou, elected in 1988 on an AKEL ticket, who has set up his own Free Democrats party.

And EDEK, which garnered 11 per cent of the poll five years ago, could find itself in a strong negotiating position if the DISY-DIKO alliance fails to win a majority in the house.

The first results are expected around midnight on Sunday, and the final count will be completed by noon on Monday.

Holbrooke grilled about Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Bosnia dealmaker Richard Holbrooke told a congressional committee Tuesday that the administration did not engage in covert action to encourage Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia.

Mr. Holbrooke, who answered questions from senators for over two hours, defended the government's decision to turn a blind eye to the shipments of Iranian weapons that entered Bosnia from Croatia in April 1994.

"This was not a covert action," said Mr. Holbrooke, who became assistant secretary of state for European affairs in September 1994.

"No American personnel were involved, no U.S. funds, no U.S. advice, no U.S. oversight," Mr. Holbrooke told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

He maintained that "the entire American involvement was the diplomatic exchange" between the U.S. ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman who had requested U.S. instructions about whether to block the arms shipments.

Mr. Galbraith told Mr. Tudjman that he received "no instructions" from the State Department on the matter, a response that in diplomatic terms was taken to mean that the United States did not object to the transfer.

The U.S. Congress is holding hearings to investigate whether the administration's so-called amber light to the Iranian arms shipments amounted to an

attempt to secretly influence the military balance in the region in violation of public policy.

The United States at the time was supporting the U.N. arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Holbrooke stated that the U.S. decision to not object to the arms shipment saved the Muslim-led Bosnian government in Sarajevo which was seriously outgunned by its enemies, the Bosnian Serbs.

"It's only because of that that we have a fragile peace on the ground today which didn't involve the annihilation and near genocide of the Bosnian Muslim population," he said.

Mr. Holbrooke, who left the State Department in February, said he had examined a request in September 1994 from Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic for U.S. support to encourage other countries to provide arms.

But the request was "turned down," he said after legal advisors in the State Department raised several questions about what was then called "the Holbrooke initiative."

"I was nearly desperate with concern that they (the Bosnians) wouldn't make it through the winter," he said.

Mr. Holbrooke did not name the countries that Washington would have approached for arms on behalf of the Bosnians. Several newspaper reports have listed Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Security fears dull Israeli hustings

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres' election campaign is a security nightmare.

Protected by a buffer of bodyguards, Mr. Peres addresses audiences from distant stages while sharpshooters take to nearby rooftops and plainclothes security men stalk the crowds.

Mr. Peres, who still receives death threats, always wears a bulletproof vest and is allowed to handle a bit, shake some hands and kiss a few children but only in controlled situations where the crowd is hand-picked.

The distance imposed on Mr. Peres is alien in a country where politicians pride themselves on their human touch. While the security seems necessary after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination and in light of the threat of militant attacks, it has dulled the campaign somewhat.

Right-wing candidates avoid fiery rhetoric for fear of reigniting the political hatreds that led to Rabin's slaying by an ultranationalist opposed to his peace policies.

And fears of suicide bombings by militants seeking to wreck the Israeli-Palestinian peace process run so high that Mr. Peres' Labour Party and the opposition Likud were

reportedly planning to cancel mass rallies in the days before the May 29 balloting.

There have been so many reports of the threat of extreme acts that everyone is on high alert and will be that way until elections are over," said police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen.

Lax security was blamed for enabling Mr. Rabin's Nov. 4 assassination. The killer, Yigal Amir, was allowed to loiter around Mr. Rabin's car and shoot the premier pointblank as he left a rally of supporters in Tel Aviv.

His successor sometimes seems ill-at-ease with the new conditions.

Mr. Peres has hesitated upon arrival at some rallies, appearing to consider approaching the crowd, then turned away when directed by a strict bodyguard's pointing finger.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm in a cage," he said recently. "But there is nothing else to be done."

The measures also affect Mr. Peres' opponent, Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, although to a lesser extent. While Mr. Peres never tours the open markets, once a staple of Israeli campaigns, Mr. Netanyahu does so occasionally — accompanied by

three rings of security men.

In a recent tour of a Tel Aviv market, his guards were so tense they pushed and kicked anyone who got within an arm's length of the Likud leader — even party lawmaker Michael Eitan.

"It is not pleasant, but it's reality," said Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak, noting that his boss also occasionally puts on a protective vest.

Concern runs so high that two hours before a Peres rally outside Jerusalem's city hall Monday, 5,000 municipal workers were told to evacuate the building for a special check.

Later security retracted the evacuation order and issued special passes to employees who opted to stay.

Yaron Dekel, political commentator for Israel TV, said the tight security has created a dull, calm campaign.

"The activists are silent, unexcited," Mr. Dekel said. "David Horowitz, editor of the Jerusalem Report magazine, said the subdued atmosphere was also a result of Mr. Peres' and Mr. Netanyahu's personalities. "In absence of personal charisma...the electorate is having to consider what people stand for," Mr. Horowitz said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:30	Aladdin
16:30	NBA
17:00	Doc. - Pirates
17:40	News Flash
17:42	Children's Programme - Le Chat Porc
17:30	Varities - Le Monde Est A Vous
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine - Archimede
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Arabic Calligraphy
20:00	Tarantula
21:10	Star Trek
22:00	News in English
22:25	Feature Film: "Snowbound"
23:00	Rock Legend

PRAYER TIMES

05:59	Fajr
05:29	Sunrise/Duha
12:23	Dhuhr
16:13	'Asr
19:35	Maghrib
21:06	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62241
Anglican Church Tel. 65204
Assyrian Catholic Church Tel. 63181
Evangelical Orthodox Church Tel. 73251
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 652525
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654992
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614141

WEATHER

Forecast supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures above average and winds easterly light to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and calm.

Mir/Max temp.

Amman	21/25
Aqaba	27/30
Dead Sea	17/37
Jordan Valley	25/40

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 34 Aqaba 39 Humaydi readings: Amman 25 per cent. Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 830432
Dr. Khalil Al Tawil 757253
Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi 935342
Dr. Bahjat Bader 832642
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 718336
Al Asana pharmacy 630358
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shawwan pharmacy 637661
Nairoukh pharmacy 626571
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 270652
Al Quds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Abu Bakir 270652
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 192 621111 637777
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111 637777
Fire Brigade 617101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81381352
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Akil Maternity, J. Amn 6444112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Arman 636140
Palatine, Shmideani 607071
Shmideani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848945
Al-Mushtak Hospital 6672279

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200. S. where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:20	Sana'a (RJ)
10:00	Aqaba (add) (RJ)
10:00	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
10:20	Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:30	New Delhi (RJ)
11:05	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:05	Beirut (RJ)
11:20	Colombo (RJ)
17:20	Moscow (RJ)
17:30	London (RJ)
17:45	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:25	Athens (RJ)
21:10	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
20:10	Al Ain (RJ)
20:25	Rome (RJ)
21:10	Istanbul (add) (RJ)
06:15	Paris (RJ)
06:30	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
06:45	Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00	Riyadh (SV)
13:00	Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
14:00	Sharjah (AH)
17:00	Dubai (EK)
20:25	Paris, Damascus (AF)
06:45	Beirut (ME)
07:45	Cairo (MS)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
14:00	Riyadh (SV)
14:30	Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Muscat (GF)
15:30	Algiers (AH)
18:00	Damascus, Dubai (EK)
22:10	Cairo (MS)
23:35	Damascus, Paris (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:00	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
06:30	Marka, Aqaba (add) (RJ)
07:00	Moscow (RJ)
07:15	Beirut (RJ)
11:20	Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:45	Abu Dhabi, Hayat, New Delhi (add) (RJ)
12:00	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:05	Amsterdam, Toronto (RJ)
12:15	Rome (RJ)
13:00	Paris (RJ)
13:15	Athens (RJ)
13:25	London (RJ)
16:00	Larnaca (RJ)
20:25	Istanbul (add) (RJ)
21:15	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:35	Jeddah (RJ)
22:30	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
22:40	Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00	Athens (OA)
06:45	Anatolia (TK)
07:45	Beirut, London (BA)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
14:00	Riyadh (SV)
14:30	Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Muscat (GF)
15:30	Algiers (AH)
18:00	Damascus, Dubai (EK)
22:10	Cairo (MS)
23:35	Damascus, Paris (AF)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

07:30	Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
08:50	Aqaba (RW)
20:30	Amman (OAA) (RW)
22:00	Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

HIAJ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/500
Banana	600/600
Banana (Mukammal)	520/520
Banana (imported)	800/500
Cabbage	100/100
Carrot	230/140
Cauliflower	170/100
Cucumbers (large)	140/80
Cucumbers (small)	220/140
Eggplant	330/220
Fava beans	330/220
Garlic	230/150
Garlic (green)	230/150
Lemon	380/400
Marrow (large)	180/120
Marrow (small)	270/200
Mulukhiyah	280/180
Onion (dry)	170/100
Orange	400/300
Peas	210/140
Pepper (hot)	240/160
Pepper (sweet)	260/160
Potato	180/100
String Beans	400/250
Tomato	880/500

ROYAL JORDANIAN AIRPORT

Amman OAA (arrives at Marka Airport at 10:20) (RW)



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti visits Wadi Seer district of Amman and meets with residents to review their needs for social and infrastructure services (Petra photo)



Premier reviews with Wadi Sir residents their needs, services

WADI SEER (Petra) — Residents of Wadi Seer and 10 other small towns west of Amman Wednesday presented the government with demands for better infrastructure and social services for their regions in meetings with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and several cabinet members during a recent tour.

In Wadi Seer, town residents requested the construction of a government complex and a comprehensive health centre. Residents also asked that work be sped up on a sewage project and that a youth centre be opened.

Residents of Bader a Jadideb demanded the opening of agricultural roads to link Wadi Seer with the Jordan Valley, while those at Iraq Amir, Bassah, and Rajajeh requested the government

build schools, open roads, create cultural and youth centres, expand current water services and electricity networks, and demanded the National Aid Fund provide more assistance to needy families.

The mayors and district governors of the towns presented the demands during the tour in which the Prime Minister and his party inspected schools and local council services.

Mr. Kabariti said the government will provide all possible help within its means but it will need the cooperation of the local communities to carry out its mission.

He called on local residents to back the government's efforts in its drive to raise the standard of living and in providing better health and educational services.

Ministers accompanying Mr. Kabariti talked about plans for improving water and electricity supplies and expanding road and telephone networks.

The mayor of Marj Al Hamam requested the government help the municipality overcome its indebtedness problem which he said resulted from the appropriation of lands for public utilities and building the town's sewers and agricultural roads.

Ministers accompanying Mr. Kabariti were those of public works and housing, water and irrigation, municipal and rural affairs, post and communications, social development and agriculture. Amman Governor, Amman Mayor and heads of local departments were also in attendance.

House speaker meets PNC counterpart

Jordanian, Palestinian deputies discuss objectives for IPU meeting

AMMAN (J.T.)—Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Srour held a meeting Wednesday with the Speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) Salim Zannoun and told Jordan Television later that they discussed the Jerusalem question and Jordanian Palestinian parliamentary positions with regard to this issue at the coming International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Peking.

"Our discussions today came in the course of consultations between the two sides towards winning the support of as many nations as possible for the Jordanian-Palestinian position at the Peking conference," said Mr. Srour after the meeting.

Mr. Srour said: "The meeting was between brothers and we are agreed on the same objective and the method to be followed to achieve common goals."

"Indeed, coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian parliamentarians was maintained not only at the Arab Parliamentary Union level but also at all international parlia-

mentary meetings," said Mr. Srour.

He said that in a few months the IPU will hold a meeting in Peking and one of the topics there will be the status of Jerusalem on which the two sides are determined to coordinate their positions and help win the world community's support for the Arab views and stands.

Mr. Srour said that the Jordanians and the Palestinians have set up a follow-up committee on Jerusalem and this committee will meet before the IPU meeting, which is scheduled for September, to prepare the ground for a common stand.

He said that the committee is also expected to hold contacts with European and African parliamentary delegations during the IPU sessions to win their backing for the Arab position with regard to Jerusalem.

Mr. Zannoun said for his part that at the Arab and international parliamentary meetings, the Jordanian and the Palestinian parliamentarians demonstrated a united stand representing one people and speaking a



Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Srour Wednesday meets with Palestinian National Council (PNC) (Petra photo)

common language and that the Jordanian Palestinian relations are intimate.

"The two parliaments are determined to guarantee the continuation of the very intimate and unique relationship between Jordan and Palestine and to project their joint views at the international fora especially

in matters relating to Jerusalem," said Mr. Zannoun.

He said the two sides are now in agreement to step up their efforts to secure gains for the Arab nation at the Peking conference.

Mr. Zannoun voiced the Palestinian people's appreciation and gratitude to His

Majesty King Hussein for giving his consent to the Palestine National Council's request to retain its headquarters in Amman.

Deputies Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Salem Zawaideh and Abdullah Akhu Irshideh accompanied Mr. Srour on the visit.

Chamber to hold industrial fair to mark anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.)—The Amman Chamber of Industry announced Wednesday that it will organise a comprehensive industrial fair from May 26 through June 2 as part of celebrations marking the Kingdom's 50th independence anniversary.

Chamber president Khalidou Abu Hassan said that 160 Jordanian industrial and economic establishments will take part in the fair which is meant to project Jordan's achievements in industrial fields and to orient Jordanian, other Arab and foreign people on the quality of the Jordanian products.

A great number of heads and members of chambers of commerce, agriculture and industry in the Arab World will attend the opening of the fair and will take part in a seminar on the role of the Arab private sector in promoting Arab economic development, said Mr. Abu Hassan.

Firms participating in the fair will display food, tex-

tile, leather, printing, and paper products as well as office equipment, furniture, wooden, chemical, engineering, plastic construction materials, therapeutic medicines, medical, agricultural and mining products.

On the sidelines of the fair which is to be held at the Amman International Fair in Marj Al Hamam west of Amman the joint Jordanian-Egyptian, Jordanian-Iraqi and Jordanian-Palestinian chambers of industry committees will hold meetings to discuss promoting bilateral cooperation in industry-related affairs, according to the Chamber of Industry's public relations spokesman Walid Al Khatib. These joint committees, he added, normally hold meetings every six months.

He said that the week-long fair will display products to attract merchants who could later conclude deals but there will be no direct sale to the public.

Jordan Investment Corp. to create two companies

AMMAN (Petra)—The Jordanian Investment Corporation (JIC) has taken a decision to establish two companies, one dealing with agricultural marketing and the other with implementation and inputs needed for agricultural production.

JIC Director General Mohammad Bataineh said Wednesday that the two companies which will be created soon involve the public as well as the private sectors.

Speaking during a visit to the JIC by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Mr. Bataineh said that the cor-

poration will in the coming few days announce the establishment of a firm which will dedicate its efforts to creating a nursing college and boosting the Amman hotel management college.

So far this year the JIC initiated the iron east investment project to manufacture spare parts for factories and workshops and contributed to the industrial salts project at the Dead Sea, according to Bataineh.

In addition the JIC is conducting feasibility studies on a number of industrial projects which it intends to

carry out in cooperation with the private sector.

The Prime Minister reviewed with Mr. Bataineh these plans and suggested that the JIC create an investment fund in which government and private sector employees can contribute, adding that the fund could finance income generating projects and housing schemes or give loans to employees to carry out other production projects.

Mr. Kabariti also instructed the JIC to give due attention to the agricultural sector and the marketing of agricultural products.

Qadi wins Parliament seat in N. Badia, pledges to work as link between authorities

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—Trad Qadi, who was elected member of Parliament from the Northern Bedouin District in Monday's by-elections, pledged Wednesday he would work for the interest of people.

"I will try to be the connecting link between the people and the legislative, judicial and executive authorities and to work for the good of people," Dr. Qadi told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Qadi won the seat left vacant by the death of Nawaf Qadi, his brother.

"I was expecting this win because of the devoted and good citizens in our district," Dr. Qadi said.

Dr. Qadi, 59, said he had no feelings to the win due to the sad aspect which is the death of his brother.

Nawaf Qadi passed away in March minutes after delivering a speech in which he endorsed the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Trad Qadi, a father of six, won the seat after securing 3,862 ballots. His closest opponent, Abdul Karim Sarhan, received

3,318 votes. Nine candidates, all tribal members, ran in the Mafrag by-elections.

According to Dr. Qadi, he received strong support in most parts of the constituency.

He said he received votes in 74 of the 78 polling booths in Mafrag District.

The by-elections witnessed a large turnout (65.5 per cent). Final figures indicated that 16,266 of the 26,549 eligible voters cast their ballots in last week's elections.

Observers said that the high turnout was due to the tribal strength in the constituency.

The newly elected candidate, from Irbid, received his Tawjih degree in the scientific stream in Cairo, then studied medicine in Poland. He served twice in the government as Health Minister and also served as an ambassador.

Dr. Qadi, who practices medicine in Irbid, was also the director of the Red Crescent Society and founder of the cooperative societies in Irbid.

Dr. Qadi will retain his seat in Parliament until the end-of-term of the serving Parliament, according to the Election Law.

Suspect arrested in death of woman

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—A 24-year-old Mafrag woman Tuesday was stabbed to death by her brother in Hamra town for alleged adultery, according to official sources.

The victim, Wardeh Khalaf, was stabbed several times in the head and chest by her brother, Abdullah Khalaf, who surrendered to police immediately after committing the incident, officials said without further elaboration.

According to police, after committing the murder, Mr. Khalaf threw the knife in a water well. Police said they have retrieved the weapon.

Officials contacted by the Jordan Times declined

releasing details and said they were investigating the incident.

Wardeh was the fifth victim reported murdered in the Kingdom since the beginning of the year.

Accidents claim lives

Meanwhile, Public Security Department (PSD) reports said that four children were killed Tuesday in various accidents in the Kingdom.

In Sweileh, a five-year-old child was killed after being run over by a bus driven by Ali Mohammad, 24.

The report said that Randa Maher died shortly after arriving to hospital.

In the Irbid area in Ajloun, a 10-year-old child, identified by PSD reports Hiba Mohammad

was killed after being struck by a pick-up driven by Mubashir Sultan, 35.

In Yaddoubeh, a five-year-old child, Ala' Abdul Rahim, was also killed in a road accident after he was hit by a vehicle driven by 22-year-old man identified in the report as Mohammad Salman.

In Ramtha, an 18-month-old child drowned while playing in the backyard of her home after falling in a water well, according to PSD reports.

The victim, identified as Maria Ahmad, was alone and unattended when the incident occurred, the report said.

The victim was rushed to Ramtha Government Hospital but she died shortly after, the reports said.

What's Going On

FILMS

- * "Makinavaja" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- * "Young Man With a Horn" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- * "Luis Gordillo" (in Spanish with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

- * German film "Das Versprechen" and French film "Un Indien Dans la Ville" respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Thursday at Prince Hassan Auditorium, University of Jordan.
- * French film "Un Indien Dans la Ville" and Swedish film "Nionde Kompaniet" respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Friday at Prince Hassan Auditorium, University of Jordan.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Paintings by Amineh Mango at Al Hussein Society Centre, Seventh Circle, Jabal Amman from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4-8 p.m., until May 23. Tel: 817598.
- * Exhibition of photos of French artists and books by Yvan Pommaux and Christophe Besse at the French Cultural Centre, until May 31.
- * Bani Hamida annual spring exhibition "Visions", until May 26.
- * Works from the collection of Museo del Gradaba Espanol contemporaneo Marbella "From Picasso to Our Present Days" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 6.
- * Exhibition of metal-made furniture by Salim Bandak of the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until May 31.
- * Annual spring exhibition at Jordan River Design entitled, "New Beginnings" until May 23. Tel: 613081/2.
- * Recent works by Ayyad Al Nimer at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 12.

Claimants to be paid this year

(Continued from page 12)

for losses of personal property.

Mr. Otobi, who deals with applications on a daily basis, said the claimants were "very optimistic that they would get paid," particularly after Mr. Alzamora's comments Tuesday night.

Mr. Alzamora said that the first payment will be made to 50,000 people from 71 countries, the bulk of them in category "A", representing claims worth \$406 million.

Individual claims for more than \$100,000 in category "C" could cost the compensation fund \$300 million. Corporate claims total about \$7 billion.

Claims from governments are much higher. Kuwait itself has filed state claims worth more than \$100 billion.

The bulk of all applications have been filed from Jordan and Kuwait.

Kuwait said Wednesday its share of war reparations from Iraq would be so small that Baghdad would need more

than 100 years to pay for the damage inflicted during its occupation of the emirate.

"The money is not enough to pay Kuwait's claims," Adel Assem, director general of a government committee assessing Kuwait's war losses, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

At this rate, it will take about 116 years to pay the Kuwait bill.

Mr. Assem told a news conference that Kuwait's losses were estimated at \$116 billion during the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

The U.N. compensation committee has so far approved only \$400 million in claims filed by Kuwaitis. However, many more claims are expected to be approved eventually.

Kuwait still plans to file for an additional \$6 billion in environmental damage, Mr. Assem said.

Kuwait has received and distributed \$6.22 million in category "B" claims.

Group slams Israel, Hizbollah

(Continued from page 12)

to refrain from indiscriminate attacks — hitting military targets and civilians without distinction — and from disproportionate attacks — in which the military advantage is outweighed by excessive "collateral damage" to civilians.

Israel and Hizbollah agreed last month to stop attacks on civilians. But Human Rights Watch said the ceasefire agreement was "seriously flawed" because it did not explicitly bar reprisals against civilians.

Chechens separatists kill 22 Russian soldiers outside Bamut

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechen rebels killed 22 Russian soldiers and wounded 48 Wednesday outside the southwestern village of Bamut, the Russian military command said.

The battle took place before dawn when 40 fighters left their defensive positions and assaulted Russian lines, inflicting the heavy casualties in hand-to-hand fighting, Interfax quoted the military as saying.

There was no independent confirmation of the casualty toll.

Bamut has been under siege and intense aerial and artillery bombardment for more than a year, with Russian troops dug in on the outskirts. In the last week, the Russians have stepped up the rocket and bombing campaign against the rebels in preparation for a ground assault to capture the village.

The bombing was so intensive overnight that the shockwaves broke windows in the town of Achkhoy Martan, 10 kilometres away, an Interfax reporter there said.

The rebels, who are armed with mortars, anti-tank rockets and small arms, have resisted by digging themselves deep into the mountainous terrain surrounding the village and by sheltering in abandoned Soviet-era nuclear missile silos.

The almost impenetrable, thickly wooded hills rising immediately behind Bamut allow the rebels to give crucial supporting fire for the fighters below.

If Russian soldiers and tanks do storm the village, really a wasteland of craters and rubble, they will come under direct fire and will have to retreat to their previous positions

as they have done several times before," said a Chechen military command official quoted by Interfax.

The defence of the village has become a symbol of the Chechens' 17-month struggle against the vastly more powerful Russian army and air force. There have been almost a dozen failed attempts to storm Bamut, and at least twice the Russian forces briefly held it before being forced out again.

In the last month, two nearby bastions of rebel resistance, Stary Achkhoy and Orekhovo, have been captured by the Russians after saturation shelling and aerial bombing, followed by tank assaults.

Russian artillery also shelled separatist-held mountain areas around Vedeno in the southeast of the Muslim republic, while airplanes bombed the southern mountain village of Ulus-Kert and the eastern village of Tsentoroi, Interfax quoted separatist sources as saying.

About 40,000 people are estimated to have died since December 1994 when President Boris Yeltsin ordered a huge military crackdown to end a separatist uprising. Much of the tiny republic, including the capital Grozny, is in ruins.

Mr. Yeltsin, who is seeking re-election on June 16, has promised to visit Grozny shortly, although his top aides have advised against the trip for security reasons.

A March 31 ceasefire and peace plan announced by Mr. Yeltsin has had virtually no effect on the war, with fighting raging daily.

S. African judge maintains charges against Malan but frees 3 others

DURBAN, South Africa (AFP) — A Durban judge refused Wednesday to drop murder and conspiracy charges against former Defence Minister Magnus Malan, but released three ranking military officers who are among 19 other co-accused.

In a brief session, Justice Jan Hugo granted discharges to former army officers Gerrit Griesel, Pieter Groenwald and Jacobus Victor.

He gave no reasons for the men's release or for his decision to continue cases against 17 other men, including Gen. Malan, accused of involvement in a massacre nine years ago in a nearby black township.

"I am not going to give reasons for my findings today. The reasons will be documented in my judgement at the end of the trial," Judge Hugo said.

All 20 men had been accused of masterminding and committing the murders of 13 people, mostly women and children, in KwaNtutha, south of this major KwaZulu-Natal port on Jan. 21, 1987.

Prosecutors claim Gen. Malan, who was defence minister from 1980 to 1991, conspired with others to train a secret death squad in the Caprivi strip in northern Namibia in 1986 as part of an "Operation Marion".

The death squad, whose members

allegedly carried out the massacre, was purportedly used to aid Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) in its undeclared civil war against President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

Last week, KwaZulu-Natal's provincial Attorney-General Tim McNally, who is leading the prosecution against Gen. Malan and the others, told the court there was "abundant evidence" linking the former minister to the activities of the death squad and the massacre.

Three admitted members of the death squad testified during the case that opened in March that they were ordered by superiors to carry out the KwaNtutha attack on the home of Victor Ntuli, a former ANC activist.

Ntuli was not home at the time of attack; those killed were women and children just back from a religious service.

Outside the courtroom Wednesday, the three released officers told reporters they expected the charges against their co-accused to be quashed later in the case.

"I have no plans for the future," said Mr. Victor, who is still an active military officer with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. "I have been in the army 28 years and will be back at my post tomorrow."



Sinn Féin leaders (left-right) Pat Docherty, Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and Mitchell McLaughlin launch their party's manifesto. Mr. Adams accused Britain of spurning his "olive branch" of a commitment to peace but refused to say if his IRA backers would declare the truce that would secure his seat at peace talks (Reuters photo)

U.K., Irish ministers meet on N. Ireland

LONDON (UPI) — British and Irish government ministers were meeting Wednesday to try to advance a Northern Ireland peace process under threat from both IRA guerrillas and their disgruntled Protestant Unionist foes.

It was probably the last ministerial meeting between the two governments before Britain holds elections in the disputed province May 30 and peace talks starting on June 10, and will be dominated by an intractable dispute over disarming the IRA.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew and Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring were expected to try to find a formula for IRA arms that would tempt the guerrillas to declare a new ceasefire.

Britain last week watered down its long-term demand that the IRA should hand over its huge arms caches by saying "decommissioning" would not be allowed to bog down the talks.

Mr. Spring and Mr. Mayhew meet the day after the province's main pro-British Ulster Unionist Party threatened to vote against the British government if Prime Minister John Major tried to appease the Irish Republican Army (IRA) or its Sinn Féin political wing.

Mr. Major has a majority of just one in the 651-seat British parliament and has depended on Unionist support in the past to pass legislation.

Unionists fear that the British government will somehow backtrack on its commitment to get the IRA to disarm for fear of holding on without representatives of the guerrilla organisation at the heart of the Northern Ireland conflict.

They want to see negotiations on disarmament that will force the IRA to start

handing over some of its weapons as the talks progress but the IRA has termed any attempt to seize its arsenal before a final settlement as "ludicrous".

Irish officials said they hoped the outcome of the meeting would be another step towards getting Sinn Féin to persuade the IRA to renew a broken 17-month ceasefire.

Britain and Ireland say only a new truce will earn a seat at the peace talks for Sinn Féin, which seeks the end of British rule and reunification of the two Irelands.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) renewed its war against British rule with a London bombing campaign in February which ended a truce and made Britain and Ireland ban its Sinn Féin political wing from the peace talks.

Sir Patrick and Mr. Spring are expected to spell out more details on how they plan to put the issue of disarming the IRA, and its Protestant loyalist foes, on the June 10 talks agenda without provoking a dispute that would torpedo the talks on day one.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said Tuesday night: "We are close to agreement on how to carry the process forward, without decommissioning blocking the negotiations," but he gave no details.

The Irish government has suggested detaching the issue of arms disposal from the main body of the talks in line with suggestions by former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, President Bill Clinton's Ireland advisor.

A role for Mr. Mitchell in the June 10 talks may be discussed at the London meeting but the outline of the talks agenda and procedure is unlikely to emerge until after the May 30 elections, Irish officials said.

Russian flats blast traps 38; 4 feared dead

MOSCOW (R) — Thirty-eight people were trapped under rubble Wednesday and at least four were feared dead after an explosion ripped through a five-storey block of flats in a Russian town near the border with Finland.

Police in Svetogorsk, just one kilometre from the border, said the arms and legs of four people were protruding from the rubble after one end of the four-year-old building collapsed.

"We cannot be sure these people are dead but we are 90 per cent sure. Their arms and legs are sticking out and they are not moving. It's awful," Police Chief Boris Blinov told Reuters by telephone.

He said five people had been pulled out of the rubble alive.

An Emergency Ministry spokeswoman quoted preliminary information as saying 38 people had been trapped after the early morning blast. Seven others had been taken to hospital, she said, but could not confirm any deaths.

She said the cause of the blast was not known. Chief Blinov said it was too soon to tell whether it had been a gas explosion.

Emergency teams rushed to the scene from St. Petersburg, about 140 kilometres to the south, and Finland sent two rescue units, including a fire-fighting team.

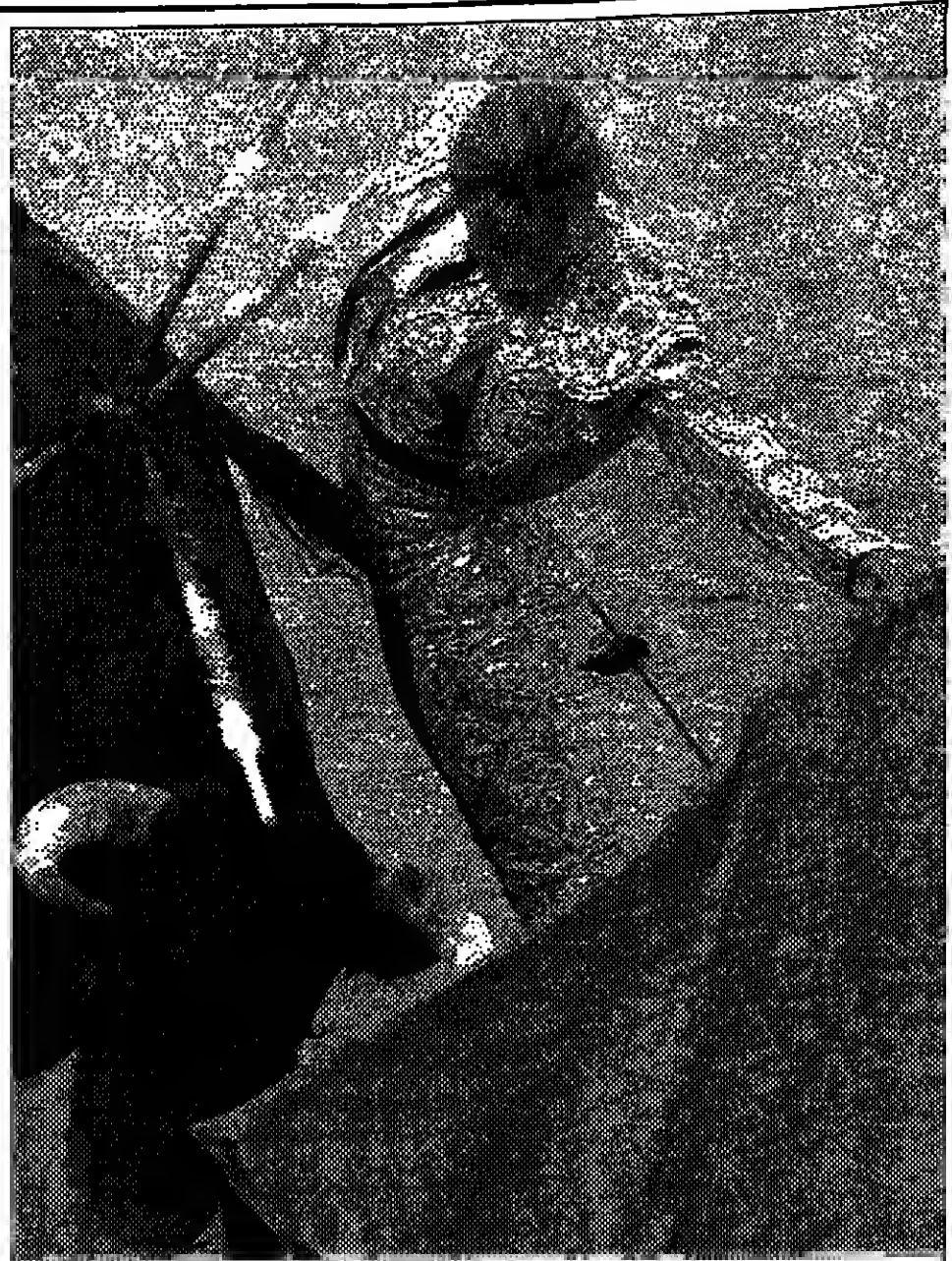
In Helsinki, a Finnish Interior Ministry spokesman said three people were feared dead and about 40 were injured.

Chief Blinov said the explosion had blown out the windows of buildings nearby in the town of 18,500 people. It took place at about 6.40 a.m. (02:40 GMT).

He said the part of the building which collapsed had been home to 10 families, or 41 people, living in four-room flats. Such apartments are unusually large for Russia.

Their flats had been built after the original building was completed and were divided from the other apartments by a double wall, rather than a single one.

"The damage could have been worse but the fact that there were two walls may have meant the rest of the building did not suffer," Chief Blinov said.



Cristina Sanchez — Spain's first woman matador

MADRID (R) — Cristina Sanchez was set to become Spain's first female "matador de toros" — killer of bulls — after she completed her last fight at junior level in front of cheering crowds at Madrid's Las Ventas Ring. Ms. Sanchez, wearing a turquoise blue and gold suit of lights, the traditional bullfighter's attire, performed a series of elegant and assured passes with the cape on her first bull, but was nervous during the kill which took five tries to complete. Ms. Sanchez is shown in action during her last fight as a junior bullfighter at Madrid's Las Ventas bullring Tuesday. Ms. Sanchez will become Spain's first female "matador de toros" (killer of bulls) in the southern French city of Nîmes on May 25 (Reuters photo)

Wallenberg family bank aided Nazi Germany, secret documents show

NEW YORK (R) — While Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg was trying to save the Jews of Budapest from the Nazis, his family's bank in Sweden was collaborating with the Germans, according to previously secret U.S. documents released Tuesday.

In February 1945 documents, wartime U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. informed Acting Secretary of State Joseph Grew that the Wallenberg family Enskilda Bank was making loans to German industry without receiving collateral, acting to conceal German interests in U.S. industries and was willing to sell the Germans a Swedish plant in Hamburg for gold.

The letter also points one of Wallenberg's uncles, Jacob Wallenberg, as pro-German and seeks to counter the impression that another uncle, Marcus, was "pro-allied." It accuses the

Enskilda Bank of being "repeatedly connected with large black market operations" including dealing with dollars reportedly dumped by the Germans.

The documents were discovered in the U.S. National Archives by the World Jewish Congress (WJC), which released them.

The WJC said it was part of the documents in "Operation Safehaven," a U.S. intelligence effort in 1945 that tried to trace how the Germans used banks in neutral countries, especially Switzerland, to ferry funds and assets out of the country.

Another document, dated April 14, 1945, said that two German officers were attempting to deposit 2 million Swedish kroner "with sympathetic Swedes through Wallenberg, the banker" after failing to use the money to buy Swedish navigation equipment for the German Navy.

Morgenthau, in the documents he supplied Grew, said Jacob Wallenberg "was known to be sympathetic and working with the Germans" and was the author of the Swedish-German trading agreement and a member of the "permanent joint Swedish-German Trading Commission."

Raoul Wallenberg, the nephew of Jacob and Marcus, is credited with saving tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews in the waning days of the World War II by issuing them Swedish protective passports.

He arrived in Budapest in July 1944 just after the Germans had deported 437,000 Jews to death camps in a bid to protect the remaining 200,000 Jews in the city. Wallenberg was last seen being escorted by two Soviet army soldiers in January 1945 and is widely believed to have died in Soviet hands — although the date is much in dispute.

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Liz Taylor's husband wants more money

LOS ANGELES (R) — Larry Fortensky, the construction worker who became Elizabeth Taylor's seventh husband, is asking the movie star for more support as they await their divorce. In a motion filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Mr. Fortensky said that when they split this year, he moved out of the mansion the couple shared in Bel Air and was living in a rented home. He was living on "bare expenses" of \$5,000-a-month, that Taylor was paying him. The movie actress has an estimated \$5 million annual income, Mr. Fortensky's suit stated.

Twins, 79, survive attack by raging bull

WELLINGTON (R) — Two 79-year-old New Zealand twins survived an attack by an enraged bull by clinging to the animal's head as it tried to gore them. The Evening Post reported that Pearl Mills and Florrie Ward were attacked by the bull after it blocked their path across a field in the North Island town of Raumati, near Wellington. "Pearl isn't afraid of anything and patted him on the nose," Ms. Ward said. "Next thing I was being pushed along the track. His horns were digging into my legs." The pair grabbed the bull's horns and held on while it tossed them around and tried to gore them. Ms. Mills eventually broke free and ran for help, leaving her sister still hanging on to the bull's head. Ms. Mills found Neil Johnstone, 21, who used a broom to distract the bull and let the women escape. "We owe our lives to him," she said. The women suffered broken arms and multiple "bruises from the incident. Ms. Ward also suffered broken bones in her eye socket. Police later went to the paddock and shot the bull.

Hong Kong firm drops ban on women wearing pants

HONG KONG (R) — A Hong Kong firm has backed down from a recent ban on women employees wearing trousers to work. Lippo Securities House also dropped threats to dock 300 Hong Kong dollars (\$38) from wages of its female staff each time they wear trousers, after the Labour Department ruled the move illegal. A Lippo employee said managers at the firm have abandoned the trousers ban, which has been condemned as sexist by women's groups.

Briton's \$2 million bequest mystifies U.S. church

ST. LOUIS (R) — The pastor of a small church in St. Louis said a mysterious British benefactor who willed \$2 million to his church took the reason for her generosity to her grave. American-born Martha Morgan Short, who died in March 1993 in a London hospital, split her fortune between the Union Avenue Christian Church in St. Louis and the First Church Of Christ, Scientist, in Boston.

Rival colas battle for space supremacy

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The cola wars entered the space age as Russian cosmonauts filmed a commercial with a giant can of Pepsi and U.S. Astronauts aboard the shuttle Endeavour tested a Coca-Cola dispenser. While Russian Cosmonauts posed outside the Mir space station with a 4-foot (1.2 metre) tall replica of a new-style Pepsi can, astronauts aboard shuttle Endeavour struggled with a Coca-Cola dispenser.



Police explosives specialists sift through the debris Wednesday of a powerful car bomb which killed at least 12 people and devastated a busy market in New Delhi. The Tuesday evening blast, for which responsibility was claimed by Kashmir separatists, ripped through the shopping district of Lajpat Nagar, setting several large buildings on fire including a four-storey building containing 30 shops (Reuters photo)

Burma detentions rise to 80; opposition sees more

RANGOON (R) — At least 80 Burmese pro-democracy politicians had been detained since Monday and more could follow as the military government moved to stop them from holding a weekend meeting, an opposition source said.

"About 80 have been detained up until now... But 80 is an open-ended figure, it could be more already because we have a very slow way of getting the information," a source close to democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi told Reuters Wednesday.

"They come to peoples' homes and detain them, in some cases they are put under house arrest. Some are taken from their cars or buses — officials get on the bus and tell them to get off, then arrest them," he said in an interview at Ms. Suu Kyi's residence.

As he spoke, Ms. Suu Kyi and members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party were preparing for a Congress of top party members set to start at her house Sunday.

Diplomats in Rangoon said the stage was set for a confrontation between Ms. Suu Kyi and the military government but added it was unclear how far the ruling military body, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), would push its crackdown against the NLD.

"She's not the sort of person to back down," one diplomat told Reuters.

The street outside Ms. Suu Kyi's house was quiet, but plainclothes security men openly snapped pictures of reporters going into her lakeside residence.

The source said the meeting would continue as planned, despite the fact that nearly a quarter of 300 pro-democracy politicians expected to attend had been detained.

"Some foreign media and foreign businessmen like to think the NLD is effectively sidelined. This shows we are not," he said.

"It seems that everyone from the districts that were supposed to come will be detained so that this Congress cannot take place," he said, adding that the NLD had expected SLORC would take such actions.

Neither SLORC nor the official media have commented on the reports of widespread arrests.

Hotel sources said operators had been instructed, under threat of punishment, to advise the authorities if anyone affiliated with a political party registered in their hotel.

Most of those arrested were elected members of the NLD.

At least 44 were from outside Rangoon and were en route or preparing to travel to the capital for the meeting, which is due to last two to three days, the source said.

The remaining 36, including Ms. Suu Kyi's Secretary Win Htein, were mostly arrested late Tuesday in Rangoon. But a defiant Ms. Suu Kyi said Tuesday the party was determined to hold its meeting, and the source said Wednesday she was busy planning the agenda despite the sweeping arrests.

"This is a police state. We are used to it. We are conditioned to this kind of atmosphere," he said. "Those who are afraid don't work with us."

The meeting would be the first congress of NLD members, who won more than 80 per cent of the seats in the 1990 general election but did not take up power because the results were not recognised by the SLORC.

Ms. Suu Kyi was under house arrest at that time. The Congress would be the first opportunity for the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate to meet all the representatives since she was released from six years' house arrest in July.

Jupiter's waterless weather goes 'underground'

WASHINGTON (R) — On Jupiter, weather may be more than skin-deep, with heat-driven winds circulating from the planet's cloud-tops to 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometre) below its gassy, roiling surface, scientists reported Tuesday.

Working with data sent back by a parachute-probe from the spacecraft Galileo last December, researchers at a scientific meeting pondered the nature of Jupiter's "underground" weather and debated the origins of Earth's largest planetary neighbour.

So-called Jovian winds have been estimated at speeds over 400 miles an hour (644 kph) even at depths 100 miles (161 kilometres) below the clouds — as deep as the Galileo probe could measure.

The fact that the winds go all the way down means that it's the heat from the interior of Jupiter that's driving the wind," said Richard Young, a NASA scientist based at Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, California.

The prevailing winds are so regular they may be responsible for the coloured bands clearly visible by Earth-based telescopes, he said from an American Geophysical Union meeting in Baltimore.

Roughly analogous to the jetstream, which is a prime weather-maker on Earth, the winds of Jupiter are straighter, with fewer latitudinal dips and wiggles, creating weather patterns that last for centuries, not days, Mr. Young said.

The Galileo probe raised fresh questions about the makeup of the planet despite the wealth of information it furnished. One puzzle is why there is so little water on Jupiter.

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Bangui calm despite gunfire — French army

PARIS (R) — The French army said Wednesday the situation was calm in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, where part of the army has mutinied over pay arrears.

"Despite certain alarmist reports, the situation is calm in Bangui with the exception of isolated gunshots," a military spokeswoman told Reuters.

She denied French radio reports that Paris had flown more troop reinforcements to Bangui overnight to quash the mutiny, saying that only equipment was delivered by the latest air force flights into the city.

"There have been no new troop reinforcements," she said. Paris flew about 500 men into Bangui Monday to reinforce the 1,400 French troops based in the country, with which Paris has a defence agreement.

The spokeswoman's comments appeared aimed at calming fears that the situation was out of control after the first civilians evacuated from the country since the mutiny broke out four days ago reached Paris overnight.

A senior government official said French troops would not intervene in fighting between the rebels and troops loyal to President Ange-Felix Patasse, but their deployment to regroup expatriates in Bangui "could have a stabilising influence."

Some 130 French women, children, elderly people and individuals suffering from illness or exhaustion arrived at a Paris airport early Wednesday.

A U.S. military plane left Bangui Tuesday with the first group of Americans fleeing the army mutiny, airport sources said. More Americans gathered at their embassy in central Bangui under the protection of U.S. Marines, witnesses said.

About 1,000 French troops have fanned out in Bangui to keep roads open and deter attacks on expatriates during the mutiny in which at least seven people have been killed.

French forces have rounded up more than 1,100 foreigners in the capital and taken them to secure sites to prepare for a possible evacuation.

French officials said Paris was talking to both Central African authorities and army rebels to try to end the mutiny.

The rebel soldiers sought an amnesty, the sacking of two military superiors and back pay, the sources said. They also wanted to retain their arms.

An estimated 2,400 to 2,500 French nationals live in the Central African Republic.

9 million have fled homes in ex-USSR since 1989 — U.N.

GENEVA (R) — More than nine million people in the former Soviet Union have abandoned their homes since 1989 because of ethnic tension or ecological disaster, the United Nations Refugee Agency said Thursday.

The UNHCR said the figure, one in every 30 of the population of the collapsed Communist empire and still growing, represented movements of "an astonishing scale and complexity" which posed a potential threat to regional stability.

If the trend were not halted, the U.N. agency said in a report for an international conference on the problem in Geneva at the end of this month, it "could clearly have much wider ramifications for global security."

The UNHCR said the numbers did not include people uprooting in search of a better life amid economic decline or those emigrating outside the old Soviet borders.

Almost all were forced migrants, including 3.6 million made refugees as a result of a myriad of conflicts, according to the report.

But among them were nearly 700,000 ecological migrants, victims of Soviet policies which brought catastrophes like the drying of the Aral Sea in Central Asia, radiation in the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing area and the Chernobyl nuclear plant explosion.

Others, totalling nearly 1.2 million, were victims of the deportation by Josef

Stalin in 1944 of entire small nations — more than three million people — who are still trying to return to their ancestral homelands.

The conference — organised by the UNHCR, the Geneva-based International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) — was originally proposed by Russia.

It is aimed at producing a plan to help governments in ex-Soviet republics manage the problem and head off conflicts and tensions causing new migration as well as "to increase stability in a dangerously unstable region".

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Pakistan blamed for New Delhi car-bombing; bus blast kills 22

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India Wednesday accused Pakistan of staging a devastating blast which killed 28 people in a New Delhi market as 22 passengers died in a bomb attack on a bus in the northern state of Rajasthan.

Indian authorities sounded a countrywide security alert following the twin bombings and appealed to people to remain vigilant against terror attacks.

Rajasthan Home Secretary Arun Kumar put at 22 the number of bus passengers killed, according to the latest official count, and said 30 others were injured in the blast, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

The explosion, which occurred at around 3:00 p.m. (0930 GMT), killed many passengers instantly, blew the roof off the bus and set the vehicle ablaze, state police and the United News of India news agency said.

PTI quoted Mr. Kumar as saying the blast was caused by a bomb.

Police Officer Ram Kishore, reached by AFP by telephone in the remote district of Dausa, expressed the same view.

"We believe that a bomb was planted in the bus. It was a powerful explosion," he said from Dausa, some 200 kilometres from New Delhi.

He identified the vehicle as an inter-city bus operated by the Rajasthan State Transport Corp. and said it was carrying passengers from the Taj Mahal town of Agra to Bikaner in Rajasthan.

"Many of the injured (passengers) are in a critical state," Officer Kishore said. Rescuers rushed the casualties to nearby hospitals.

The blast came a day after a car packed with explosives wrecked one of New Delhi's busiest shopping



An Indian policeman searches for clues Wednesday at the site of a car bomb blast in New Delhi's shopping district of Lajpat Nagar which set several large buildings on fire including a four-storey building containing 30 shops (Reuters photo)

markets Tuesday evening, killing 28 shoppers and injuring 40 others.

Indian Home Secretary K. Padmanabhaiah accused Islamabad of masterminding the explosion Tuesday — the blast coming shortly after India marked the fifth anniversary of Premier Rajiv Gandhi's assassination.

"We see the hand of Pakistan," he said of the bombing of central market. "We have concrete proof of their involvement."

Security is being stepped up. It will be an ongoing process."

Mr. Padmanabhaiah gave no further details, and there was no immediate response from Islamabad.

Pakistan and India regularly trade accusations of involvement in terrorist attacks on their soils. In Pakistan, 137 people have been killed in a series of unresolved attacks in the past seven months.

Police and forensic experts scoured through debris at the devastated Lajpat Nagar central market, where at 6:45 p.m. (1315 GMT) Tuesday a deafening blast ripped apart seven cars and triggered an inferno, injuring 50 people.

The Fire Department said the toll touched 28 with 16 deaths reported from three hospitals in addition to 12 bodies recovered from the site.

The toll could rise as some people were critically injured, a Fire Department official said.

The police said at least 10 kilograms of high-powered explosives were used in the bombing, triggered by a timer or remote-controlled device.

The Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front separatist group late Tuesday claimed responsibility, saying the Lashkar-e-Sajjad Unit — named after rebel leader Sajjad Keno who was slain by Indian troops in January — had carried out the attack.

A telephone caller, identifying himself as a spokesman for the group, said the explosion was staged to avenge the killing of Muslim separatists in Kashmir, the cause of two wars between India and Pakistan.

Mr. Padmanabhaiah said intelligence agencies were aware that New Delhi was being "targeted" by Kashmiri rebels to sabotage the first general elections in the troubled state in seven years, which end on May 30.

"There were information leaks and we knew they were targeting New Delhi," he said. "We believe this is an attempt to hinder the poll process in Kashmir."

Lajpat Nagar is a stronghold of Hindu nationalists who took power in India on May 16 and home to a large number of Kashmiri and Afghan refugees.

Tuesday's blast was the second in New Delhi since April 20 when an explosion brought down a low-budget hotel, killing 17 foreign and domestic tourists. The police are yet to establish the exact cause of the hotel's collapse.

The attack Tuesday was the 12th bombing in the Indian capital in 32 months.

Hundreds feared dead in Tanzania ferry disaster

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Rescue teams Wednesday searched Africa's largest lake for survivors from a Tanzanian ferry which capsized and spilled hundreds of passengers into crocodile and hippopotamus-infested waters.

Local media reports said more than 500 people had perished, among them schoolchildren and members of a church choir. A senior official of the State Railway Company, which owns the Mv Bukoba ferry, said he thought the toll would be closer to 300.

At least 120 survivors had been plucked out of Lake Victoria and 25 bodies recovered, P.J. Kyesi, the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) acting deputy managing director, told Reuters.

President Benjamin Mkapa was travelling to the scene of Tuesday's disaster, his country's worst maritime tragedy. He declared a three-day period of national mourning from Wednesday.

Rescue teams searched for survivors and bodies on the lake Wednesday.

said Captain Cycephas Magoge, head of the TRC Marine Division.

Neighbouring Kenya and Uganda were assisting impoverished Tanzania in rescue operations, officials said. Two Ugandan ships sighted the MV Bukoba as it went down and were the first to reach the accident scene, TRC officials added.

Army, navy and police units and members of the International Committee of the Red Cross were taking part in the rescue effort.

"Rescue teams found 120 people alive and we also expect there could be more survivors on makeshift rafts, so we are scavenging to find them," Mr. Kyesi said.

Passengers who had not drowned still risked attack by crocodiles and hippopotamuses which abound in the 70,000 square kilometre lake.

State radio said more than 500 people had died and the boat had been heavily overloaded. Local dailies reported that among the passengers on the boat were 40 secondary schoolchildren and 20 members of a church choir.

A Transport Ministry spokesman said the ferry was carrying 433 people — its legal capacity — but officials at Mwanza Port said it was often overloaded.

"We are all very shocked but we just don't know what's happening. We shall have more details when our bosses return from the accident scene," a TRC official told Reuters.

The ferry captain, Reuben Rume, was among the survivors being treated at a hospital in Mwanza, officials said.

The Belgian-built ferry, commissioned in 1979, went down early Tuesday near Karumo Island, 30 nautical miles from the western town of Mwanza.

TRC officials said it was about 60 metres long and nine metres wide.

Mr. Kyesi denied reports the vessel hit a rock before it went down. Mwanza Regional Police Commander Ignas Mtana said his men were still investigating.

"We don't know what happened and we are still scrutinising the information surrounding this accident," Mr. Mtana told Reuters by telephone from Mwanza.

Attention focused on the seaworthiness of the vessel, which sources at the TRC said had been due to be taken out of service very soon. But presidential spokesman Patrick Chokala told Reuters the ferry had recently passed stability tests.

The radio said the ferry was travelling from Bukoba on the western shore of the lake to Mwanza on the southern shore.

Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa, bounded by Uganda in the north, Tanzania in the south and Kenya in the east.

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and The American Center in cooperation with Philadelphia Hotel present

DAVID SANCHEZ JAZZ QUINTET (piano, bass, drums and saxophone) in

A Jazz Evening of Sketches of Dreams

Tuesday, 28 May 1996 - 8:00 p.m.

Philadelphia Hotel - Philadelphia Hall

Ticket price: JD 7

Tickets available at:
- American Center, tel. 820101
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- Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 607100
- National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

A workshop on jazz music supervised by the Quartet will be held at the National Music Conservatory on Tuesday, 28 May 1996 at 12:00 p.m.



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The View From Academia

Upgrading our students' intellectual commitment

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

DESPITE OUR society's great enthusiasm for education, there is (paradoxically) very little commitment to learning per se. Our society is more certificate-oriented, it turns out, than knowledge-oriented. What we need to do, as parents and educational institutions, at this stage is to balance both interests — to create as much eagerness for knowledge and learning as for grades and certificates.

If one observes our school and university environment carefully, one finds that there is almost total absence of intellectual life. Very little discussion, debate of issues or exchange of views goes on outside the classroom. What happens in class is almost entirely separated, divorced from what goes on outside it. One rarely finds students discussing among themselves about what they have recently read or about what they think of what they read. Whether at our schools or universities, our students cover a great deal of material — too much material, some would complain. However, this great amount of material is kept separate from the daily life, it is rarely used. It is stored in a special compartment, as is, and is recalled only at exam time and on some rare occasions.

There are many reasons for this unhappy phenomenon. Some have to do with the fact that many of our students, in upper school years and at the universities, have little interest in the subjects they study. Sociology majors at our universities, for example, study sociology because there is nothing better to study on the basis of the grades they have obtained in the tawjili exam. Even when students choose the more "prestigious" disciplines (such as medicine, engineering, English literature or business administration), theirs is not a conscious choice as such: they choose such disciplines because they are thought to be prestigious and not for the value that is inherent in them or the benefit to be obtained from studying them. Naturally, one does not talk very much about something one is not very much interested in.

Another reason may be due to the class environment itself. Most of our classes are themselves (ironically) either uninteresting or anti-interesting. Students learn lessons and study their books thinking and believing that what they learn is the truth and nothing but the truth. The material itself is rarely discussed, debated, tested or

assessed. Students are rarely asked to express their opinion of what they have read: whether the material makes sense to them or not, whether the arguments used in the books are convincing or not, etc.

The teachers' opinions are still sacred, and so are those of the various figures our students study. Newton says bla bla, Freud says bla bla, Haroun Al Rasheed says bla bla; they have to memorise what these illustrious characters said without much thinking or questioning. Most of what is expected of students in class and in exams is to repeat what they have learned verbatim. So why would they need to think much and talk much about it?

A third reason is due to the home environment. It is true that most of our parents (and elder brothers and sisters) want us to do well in class; and they usually exert a great deal of pressure on us to do well. What most parents, however, have in mind is for us to do well in exams, to have high grades. They rarely ask us about what we learn, show interest in the material itself, and discuss, argue and debate with us. In the best of cases, they help us learn the subjects we are required to learn without much thinking or questioning.

Clearly, the solution begins at home. Parents have to encourage their children early on to think about what they read and to argue, discuss and debate with them. Even though the situation may get too difficult and complicated for parents during their children's advanced stages of learning (they are actually not required to do much during these stages if they do their homework well during the earlier stages), they can do a great deal (and have fun) during the early years. Parents should get into the habit of reading the subject their children are asked to read and discuss the subjects with them. They should also get into the habit of asking less about the grade and more about the substance of the material. This should not be too ideal or difficult to ask of parents in our society because (unlike a generation or two ago) most parents in our society today are fairly learned and educated.

But parents could also play an important role in creating positive attitudes toward learning and knowledge in their children. A friend of mine, who comes from a foreign country, took his son last year to Wadi Rum on his birth-

day. They stayed overnight, took a long walk, observed desert life first-hand and experienced several interesting incidents. His son told me excitedly that they had spotted balloons, candles, etc.

Our schools and universities can play, no, should play, a crucial role in fostering correct attitudes and helping students know. The role and personality of the teacher have to be drastically altered, we keep saying. The classroom environment has to be transformed into something categorically different. Students should be allowed to explore and investigate, rather than to memorise and learn by heart. Along these lines, teachers should emphasise presentations in class and research papers. In them, students are to choose and pursue controversial subjects. The student's role is to think about and study the matter at hand carefully, look into the various views of it, present their own sense of the matter on the basis of what they had found out, and then discuss the findings and the various aspects of the matter with teachers and fellow students.

More important than this are the extracurricular activities. There are very few of them presently in our schools and universities. Schools and universities should encourage, facilitate and support students' engagements in, especially (among other things), reading or discussion groups. Students are to form into groups of shared interests: a Shakespeare-reading group, a Plato-discussion group, a Newton, etc. A teacher who is greatly committed to the pursuit of knowledge, and who has the personal and intellectual qualifications which enable him/her to assist the group, can be chosen to supervise and help. At some point the students may be able to do without the teacher.

These are some ideas as to how we may improve the long-missed (perhaps even rapidly-deteriorating) intellectual life at our schools and universities and our students' commitment to it. I am sure that many can think of more ideas. We must take intellectual life at our schools and universities more seriously than we do at present.

Beyond the limits of eccentricity

By Abba Eban

ELECTION MANIFESTOS rarely become best-sellers, and the publication of the Likud platform has evoked little resonance. This has left room for the fallacy which tells us that the two major Israeli parties have been edging toward consensus. This is inaccurate. There is no democratic nation anywhere in which the contending parties are divided by as deep a gulf as that which separates the Labour and Likud platforms.

The Likud platform is a ticking bomb with a short fuse that could explode into national disaster soon after May 29. This is because Binyamin Netanyahu has promised three things: to put "more and more" settlements into the West Bank and Gaza; to declare the River Jordan as Israel's political boundary; and to renew Israel's responsibility for the functions conferred by the Oslo agreements on the Palestinian

police. Taken together these three ideas signify the demolition of many of Israel's most cherished hopes.

To introduce new settlements into the West Bank and Gaza at this stage of the peace process would be a transparent attempt to break up any coherent intercommunication between Arab populations and to annul even the fractional degree of independence that the Palestinian nation has won. It would be the first instance in modern history of decolonisation in reverse.

It is inconceivable that this would result in anything less than the savage intifada which Knesset member Binyamin Begin has already predicted. Israel would face this dilemma as a sorely divided nation.

Not for a single day have Israelis failed to record their overwhelming support of the peace process. The bitterness of its collapse would bequeath to Israelis a poignant sense of opportu-

nities squandered.

Another result would be the serious erosion of the Israeli-American alliance. The policies of Rabin and Peres in creating the widest breach ever made in the hermetic wall of Arah and Muslim hostility has overshadowed another of their achievements: They have been the architects of an alliance with a superpower the like of which Jewish history, in its long saga of travail, has never known before.

The settlement issue has always been the tormenting nerve of the American-Israeli relationship. No American statesman and very few American citizens have ever liberated themselves from the notion expressed by President Truman's historic gesture in recognising Israeli sovereignty in a part, not the whole, of Eretz Israel.

When I presented my credentials to him in 1950 he said with typical simplicity: "Your people succeeded because your leaders asked

for something that was practical and your opponents did not."

By "your leaders" he meant Weizmann and Ben-Gurion, and by "something practical" he meant partition. An undivided totally Jewish Israel has never been anything but an unrealistic dream.

The idea that Israel can now return to police the territories from which an Israeli government (under Menachem Begin!) decreed the "withdrawal of the Israeli military and civil administration" carries eccentricity to unacceptable limits.

As the immortal Sam Goldwyn once said: "Any-one who goes to consult a psychiatrist should have his head examined."

The record of the Palestinian Authority in preventing and punishing terrorism has been less than satisfactory, but the tragedies of the coastal road, Lod airport, Ma'alot, the Olympic Games murders and very many others occurred when

our own forces were controlling security in the territories.

In those dark days there were no demonstrations against the Israeli government of the day. There was a spirit of national solidarity.

Nor is it only the U.S. and the Palestinians that would be affronted by a new Israeli government seeking to block any space for Palestinian freedom. Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Oman, Qatar, other Arab states in North Africa and the Gulf, and Turkey would be objectively unable to maintain or strengthen relations with an Israel that would hold the Palestinian population in sullen a permanent tutelage.

The Likud leadership appears to believe that the Palestinians can and should be denied two things: equal citizenship in Israel and a chance to separate into a jurisdiction of their own. But if both of these outlets

are blocked — as they are in the Likud platform — the only Palestinian recourse is more likely to be despairing than peaceful.

Between the two candidates for the premiership what strikes the eye is the contrast of resumes. Peres once compensated for America's defection by producing French aircraft, founded Israel's military industry, built Israel's nuclear deterrent and, as finance minister, astronomically reduced Israel's galloping inflation. It would require a strong imagination to envisage a less experienced and resourceful rival carrying out such missions.

The possibility that a Likud leadership could ignore its own platform is much reduced by the strong presence of determined zealots near the top of the Likud list.

The writer is a former foreign minister. This article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

Half-a-million children dead as a result of sanctions on Iraq

By Abdullah Mutawi

IN AUGUST 1995, the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) published their findings of a fivefold increase in child mortality in Iraq since the imposition of sanctions. This report was supported and endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This directly corroborated the projections of the Harvard Study Team report published in September 1991. In simple terms, over half-a-million children under the age of five died as a result of sanctions.

In April 1996, the Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), formerly known as Harvard Study Team, visited Iraq to assess the effect of sanctions imposed in August 1990 on the civilian population. The team was made up of 24 doctors, public health experts, economists, lawyers and health surveyors from eight countries. The mission was accompanied by a television crew from the CBS "60 minutes" programme and Maggie O'Kane of the Guardian.

The sanctions as imposed in Iraq are unprecedented in the sense that they are the most comprehensive economic sanctions imposed by a post cold-war Security Council. This, of course, was in conjunction with the decimation of the country's military and civil infrastructure during "Operation Desert Storm" in 1991.

The mission documented evidence of the tangible effects of sanctions on the most vulnerable groups of Iraq society. Living conditions are appalling in Iraq and are getting progressively worse. Hyperinflation has led to the average public-sector wage falling to a value of \$3-\$4 per month which at current Iraqi market prices is barely enough to buy a single meal for a family of six.

The population relies on the state rationing system for its basic staple dietary needs. Although the team found the system to be operating fairly, the system has never provided more than 30-60 per cent of the daily caloric needs. The resulting malnutrition is especially evident in children and the elderly. Substantial immuno-deficiency caused by malnutrition has created a public health catastrophe with these vulnerable sections of society falling prey to the scourge of waterborne diseases, some of which were unknown in Iraq before the Gulf crisis. Typhoid, dysentery, and cholera are all examples.

The hospitals of Iraq are in a shocking state. Drugs are simply not available in sufficient quantity. Machines found in the most primitive hospitals simply do not work any more. One 45 year old man that we saw died of a cardiac arrest because there was no defibrillator in the Kerbala General Hospital. He was only having

respiratory failure when he was brought in: 10 minutes later he was dead. Doctors are having to play God on a daily basis. When there is only enough anaesthetic for four emergency operations and there are eight emergency cases in casualty choosing who lives and who dies, the doctors are faced with a predicament.

In any one of these hospitals, children with Kwashiorkor (pot-belly syndrome) and marasmus are a common sight. These syndromes signify starvation, there are no other causes. Whilst famine is not yet a problem in Iraq, children in their early infancy are the first victims of starvation due to the malnourishment of their mothers whose bodies just cannot produce milk.

The country's health-related civil infrastructure, most notably water and sewage treatment, is virtually non-existent. Water treatment plants are operating at hugely reduced capacity due to the lack spare parts and chemicals used to make water drinkable. The state of the wastewater treatment plants is even worse as the very limited supply of locally produced chlorine is prioritised for drinking water. This has created a vicious cycle as drinking water is extracted from rivers into which untreated sewage is being dumped. There is not enough chlorine to treat this water effectively and therefore the feeble supply of drinking water reaching people is largely contaminated with untreated sewage.

A further problem facing these infrastructure facilities is that skilled workers such as engineers and technicians are deserting their jobs to find better paid work. It is not that there is much work to get, but more money can be made selling cigarettes in the streets than by working as a skilled water engineer. The only alternative is to sell household assets such as furniture and personal possessions. Even this form of income is restrained by the fact that there simply are not that many people who can afford to buy these items.

The only people who have hope of effectively supplementing their incomes are the few who have relatives abroad and can send them dollars. Even a \$20 bill can keep a family in food for a month.

Madame Albright is constantly reminding the world that under the sanctions regime, Iraq is allowed to import food and drugs. This is true when stated in the form of a sound bite. What is overlooked, however, is that prior to sanctions, oil exports made up 90 per cent of national export revenues. Since this has been cut off there is virtually no influx of hard currency with which to import vital commodities. In 1989, Iraq imported \$360 million worth of drugs. In 1996, there are only \$13 million available for this purpose.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee has blocked the import of spare parts, such as tyres for ambulances, on the grounds that they are "not essential". There are 50 ambulances in Baghdad of which

two only are operational.

There is an international legal framework under which people are entitled to basic and fundamental human rights, irrespective of sex, race, colour or religion. The most basic of these rights are set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and include the right to life and health. More specific human rights have since been defined and conventions signed. Conventions on the Rights of the Child, social, cultural and economic rights on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, social, cultural and political rights and the convention against torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishments are all examples.

The sanctions imposed on Iraq are so severe that effectively the Iraqi people have been denied access to those fundamental human rights. The basic rights to life and health are being denied as a result of the cumulative effect of sanctions on people's health and welfare. An obvious example would be the combination of the lack of clean drinking water and the levels of malnutrition (and the resulting immuno-deficiency) that we saw which has inevitably increased the level of child mortality by five since 1990.

Under its constitution (the U.N. Charter), the Security Council is empowered to impose sanctions or even wage war, to restore and maintain peace and security. It is also obliged by its constitution to always act in conformity with the principles of justice and international law. By its imposition of sanctions in the manner witnessed in Iraq, the Security Council is patently in breach of its obligations under international human rights law.

Whether the Iraqi regime is responsible for the continuation or not is irrelevant. It is the U.N. and the Security Council which are imposing the sanctions. It is beyond the control of the Iraqi people whether their leader complies with the U.N. resolutions. They are effectively being held hostage to the whims of their regime. Furthermore, an embargo which targets the regime and/or the threat to peace and security would arguably achieve the desired effect. For example, an embargo on arms and chemicals and other dangerous commodities could be just as effective in achieving the aims of the U.N., as set out in the U.N. Charter.

The writer is a lawyer based in London who was a member of the Harvard Study Team mission to Iraq in 1991 and the CESR mission to Iraq in 1996. CESR is a New York-based, non-profit research and advocacy organisation established in 1993. It was set up to address issues of poverty — access to health, food and rights set out under various sources of international law. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Society on the Move

When success comes knocking

From modest beginnings to the rank of Field Marshal, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordan Armed Forces Abdul Hafiz Mirai Kaabneh has indeed "made it." Born in Madaba in 1937, Field Marshal Kaabneh graduated from the Royal Jordanian Military Academy and was commissioned in the JAF in 1956. He began his military career as an engineer officer and attended various courses in the Kingdom, the U.S., the U.K. and Pakistan. The armed forces chairman obtained a masters in military sciences from the Royal College for Defence Studies in Great Britain and has commanded army units from platoon to high level formations. His command and staff appointments include directing staff and chief instructor at the Royal Command and Staff College, director of military training, and director of military intelligence. From 1982 until his appointment as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, he was assistant chief of staff for intelligence. Awarded several medals and decorations, Field Marshal Kaabneh is a recipient of the Medal for Gallantry. Always a soldier, the armed forces chief was called to duty as a member of Jordan's team of negotiators to the Middle East peace process from the inception of the talks to their culmination in the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty. He was named chairman of the joint chiefs in 1993 and joins only three of his predecessors in being appointed field marshal: HRH Prince Zeid Ben Shaker, Habes Majali, and Fahri Abu Taleb. Of his appointment by Royal Decree the Field Marshal said: "I am certainly pleased that my military life has been a success and that as head of the armed forces, together with my colleagues, we have achieved so much. It is very rewarding to see the JAF executing its role not only on the national level but in other parts of the world as well, that is, in its participation in international peace keeping forces. I consider this an excellent achievement and I am very proud of it. Without question, I am deeply grateful to His Majesty King Hussein for honouring me with the rank of Field Marshal. I never thought I'd achieve this stage. But I could not have done as much without the constant support of my family, whom I know made sacrifices so that I could dedicate my life's work to the armed forces. I am truly proud of them as I am of the men and women of the JAF." Field Marshal Kaabneh and his wife Nadia have four daughters and two sons: Khalud, Khalida, Amani, and Tahoni, and Kholeed and Ahmad.



Abdul Hafiz Mirai Kaabneh

through his affiliation with the NAAA and also through interacting with the media and the state organisations in Missouri as I indeed have been doing for many years." The 51-year-old Dr. Hawameh asserts. "What I call a true achievement for now, however, is that we have brought our son and daughter here, and they are having a wonderful time rediscovering their original homeland." At 23, Salim, who was born in Amman but only lived in Jordan for three months afterwards, studies medicine at St. Louis University, while his sister Barbara, 20, goes to Boston University where she is studying management. "I've been coming in and out of Jordan ever since we went to the states in 1974. But this is the first time we actually come here purely to show the children around," Dr. Hawameh says. "They are as proud as we are of their heritage and this great country that they call home." The trip to Jordan before last, for Dr. Hawameh, was when he was the only Jordanian-American to accompany U.S. President Bill Clinton to witness the signing of the 'Joint Israeli-Palestinian Peace Treaty' in 1994 in 'Wild Araba'.

MOVING UP AND OUT: From the diplomatic corps comes news of the appointment of Deputy Chief of Mission at the Spanish embassy Gustavo de Aristegui as director general-chief of the cabinet of Spain's new Minister of Interior Jaime Mayor Oreja, under the newly formed government of Partido Popular leader and now Prime Minister José María Aznar. Mr. Aristegui has been serving in Jordan since July 1993. From a family of foreign service officers, Mr. Aristegui has always been proud to say that his grandfather was the first Spanish ambassador to Jordan. These days, he has been occupied with preparations for his new post in Madrid and expects to return to Amman in early June to say good-bye and, if extra-fortunate, celebrate his 33rd birthday in a country close to his heart. His wife Camino, the other half of the "power couple," was only last

July named director of the Instituto Cervantes in Amman. She says that events took place so fast she hasn't had time to contemplate her own situation and that of their children Borja and Patricia. Meanwhile, she has plenty of cultural events to orchestrate, the ongoing exhibition of contemporary Spanish artists and an evening recital this Tuesday with La Maestranza and classical guitarist José María Gallardo del Rey, both at Darat Al Funun, and both being held under the auspices of the Embassy of Spain and the Instituto Cervantes in collaboration with Darat Al Funun. The Aristegui's are accustomed to a fast paced, high profile life, so any changes are all par for the course.

SINO-JORDANIAN WORKS: While many may not have been aware of its existence, the Jordanian-Chinese Friendship Association has indeed been around and only last week held its fourth elections for president and board in its sixth year since establishment. Winning the presidency is Hamdi Tabbaa, who also wears the president's hat at the Jordanian Businessmen's Association. The newly elected board of the association, which seeks to encourage private sector exchange with counterparts in China, is made up of industrialists, traders, bankers, engineers, etc. They are Khaled Tarawneh, vice president, Fayed Nowar, secretary, Wadi Sayegh, treasurer, and members Dr. Fayed Suheimat (former head of the Industrial Estates Corporation), Hisham Shawa, Dr. Sami Rashid, Mohammad Jasser, a senior Central Bank of Jordan officer, and Riyad Seifi, a member of the board of the Amman Chamber of Commerce. While members could not provide a rough estimate of the amount of trade and economic activity between Jordan and China, they did say that it was considerable. Mr. Tabbaa, whose as a private sector advocate is often in the public eye, will reign in his new association post for two years, during which the organisation's members hope to see increased exchanges with its Far East counterpart.

SUMMIT CELEBRATIONS: Still celebrating Europe Day, Head of Delegation Yves Gazzo and his wife Nicola, are inviting about 400 "personalities" from Jordan's diplomatic, government, academic and media circles to a "unique musical evening" atop the Citadel in Amman next Thursday. The programme features the orchestra of the National Music Conservatory of Noor Al Hussein Foundation in concert with six musicians from different European countries. The concert, being held under the patronage of their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, will be conducted under the baton of Jean-Philippe Rouchon who had done an earlier stint with the Jordan Armed Forces Orchestra and is now a visiting conductor with the NMC. The musicians, who will be arriving from various European capitals on Saturday and Sunday, will spend several days in rehearsal with their new Jordanian associates at the NMC. The Europeans are, flutist Nina Holz of Germany, Luxembourg's Danielle Hennicot on viola, first violinist Roy Theiler of the U.K., cellist Anna Jonshult of Denmark, second violinist Tony Nys of Belgium, and Portuguese mezzo soprano Isabel Maya who will sing two arias from Bizet's Carmen. The Citadel's neighbours will surely be in for something new in sounds when compositions by Sibelius, Jean Chretien Bach, Mozart and others come cascading down from its ruins. Let's hope it's a warm night.

LAUGHTER ON THE WAY: Those of you linked to the Orbit Satellite Television & Radio Network may yet enjoy a new service. The network says it will be bringing its viewers an exclusive taste of Comedy Central, the only all-comedy network from the U.S. According to Orbit, starting May 30, Fun Channel viewers will be treated to the irreverent and uproariously funny Comedy Central-produced shows, "critically acclaimed and rewarded since their inception." The shows feature a variety of formats, from the underground comedy scene in Comedy Product and London Underground, to the hit series Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher, in which the outspoken comedian hosts a panel of four highly opinionated guests from the worlds of politics, media and entertainment. "With Maher stirring up controversy and dispute, and with guests as notable and diverse as actor John Malkovich, O.J. Simpson trial star Kato Kaelin, comedian Garry Shandling (host of his own comedy spoof The Larry Sanders Show on the Hollywood Channel), Politically Incorrect never fails to reveal the 'humour' which can explode from the juxtaposition of the wildly different ideologies of the guests," say Orbit publicists. Humour does the heart well, it is said, but it helps, in this case, to be an Orbit subscriber.

SO THAT OTHERS MAY NOT SUFFER: On Monday night the Royal Cultural Centre was host to a benefit concert in memory of Louai Sayegh, a young civil engineer who died of leukemia while working towards his Ph.D. in Great Britain. Travelling to Jordan for the first time to present a night of operatic arias and classical lieder were two U.S.-born Arab-Americans — concert pianist and maestro of voice Edward Sayegh (a cousin of Louai) and lyric soprano Fatma Tilfah. According to Sayegh, whose father is from Jerusalem and mother from Birzeit, the performance was enthusiastically received by a full house. Ms. Tilfah, whose father is from Irbid and mother from Tatwan, studies with Edward Sayegh. Their experience here was so rewarding that they hope to return. In the meantime, National Music Conservatory Director Kifah Fakhoury has invited the Sayegh-Tilfah team of artists to hold master classes for the conservatory's pupils. All proceeds from Monday's recital, which was held under the patronage of Dr. Abdullah Khateeb, will go to benefit the Al Amal Cancer Centre, where Louai's parents, architect Fouad Sayegh and Abba Sayegh, a dentist, have donated a library in memory of their son. "I want people to be spared this tormenting experience, and therefore we try to help in any way we can," said Dr. Sayegh.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Footnote: Being his generous and engaging self, P.M. Abdul Karim Kabariti last night hosted a dinner at the prime ministry for deputies and ministers. With no kitchen to speak of there, catering was the command performance of the Forte Grande.

Through the imagination: David Malouf and the Australian experience

By Haya Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a novel entitled Remembering Babylon, a character emerges out of the endless dusty bush desert of nineteenth century Australia and into a new white settler community; a character whose skin was once white, whose tongue, once English, was now that of the earth's language, whose life had been lived among the native Aboriginal clans in the unknown and undiscovered recesses of this dark island continent.

What follows is a saga of a series of complex human relationships from a community of people who are 'new' to the land, whose struggle to understand their own relationship to the land and to themselves as uprooted individuals is further complicated by the appearance amongst them of this white/black man.

The birth of violence and compassion amongst these new settlers is the theme of David Malouf's 1994 novel, Remembering Babylon.

Australian author David Malouf, in Amman to promote an Arabic translation of a previous novel, An Imaginary Life, spoke to the Jordan Times about Australia's own

experiences of displacement and settlement.

It is a history that spans 200 years, he says of Australia, not counting of course, ancient Aboriginal history which does not belong to modern Australians.

As a result, Australians are still trying to make sense of their new world, of their continent. And while myths are being woven, writers like Malouf are only beginning to artistically recreate an Australia they have come to inherit.

Malouf, himself a descendant of a Lebanese family who migrated to Australia in the 1880s, agrees that there are parallels to be drawn between a Palestinian experience of diaspora, attachment to the land, violence and dispossession and an Aboriginal/Australian experience of the same.

Australia has a history of violence, but unlike circumstances here, it also has a history which socially, politically and economically compensates, through which writers like Malouf can assess the growing relationship between the land and its peoples and between the peoples themselves.

The notion of human placement and displacement is a strong strand tying all characters in Malouf's Remembering Babylon at the centre of which is the one

with the lost "mother" tongue, living on the fringes of both the white and black communities. This is a theme which, when replaced by the terms "east" and "west," draws on a familiar local experience of cultural displacement and dynamics.

In the same novel, land, in its almost humanised form, is shaped by its new inhabitants, unlike the Aborigines who have harmonised their relationship to the land by being shaped by it.

Malouf's own vision at the end of the novel is that of a people, the settlers, who are not just shaping the land to tame it, but have also started to become shaped by the land.

His other books deal with the idea of possession, and of the almost futile attempt to gain concrete possession of land; of pain and suffering and shame lived out in two world wars, a sensitive topic for Australia, of the attempts to obscure the line that divides Australia from the rest of the "upper" world, to see it "whole," complete, not different.

As a writer, Malouf says he writes of the wounds, of the shame, of the pain of Australia's modern birth and to propose a conciliatory understanding of these experiences

through the imagination.

The use of art, he says, is to come to terms, through all the events touched upon in his novels, with what the shape of their experience as a people was.

The translation into Arabic of his earlier novel An Imaginary Life which also deals with exile and language and is related thematically to Remembering Babylon, is a welcome venture by Malouf.

It is important to let others know that there is such a thing as Australian literature, he says.

That Australian literature arrives translated to the Arab World is significant.

Malouf's subject matter, after all, is close to concerns in this part of the world: Colonisation, diaspora, uprooting. The significance of land and its relationship to its inhabitants. War and enslavement. Possession and dispossession.

In spite of its past, or because of it, Australia has been building itself, block by block throughout its recent history, and in compensation towards its original inhabitants, upon the absolute practice of justice.

And that is where, unfortunately, the parallel between the Australian experience and the Palestinian one stops.

Pakistani woman fights to keep husband

By Saeed Shah
Reuters

LAHORE, Pakistan — A twenty-one-year-old Pakistani student is battling for the right to keep the husband of her choice against the wishes of her Muslim fundamentalist father.

Saima Waheed's case tests whether women have legal autonomy in Islamic Pakistan, ruled by a woman prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. It also touches on the precedence of Islamic precepts in Pakistani law and how strictly they should be interpreted.

"We are here to decide whether, under Islamic Laws

and principles, a woman who has reached the age of majority wants to leave home and live independently, there is anything in Islam to stop her," Justice Qayyum Malik, one of two Lahore High Court judges hearing Saima's case, said at a hearing on May 8.

He cited an article of the constitution, introduced by the military government of General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq in 1985, that he said upheld the supremacy of Islamic Law.

The case, widely covered in the Pakistani press, is one of the most controversial faced by the court since a 1994 trial of three Christians accused of

blaspheming the Prophet Muhammad.

Saima's counsel is Asma Jahangir, a leading secular human rights activist. Ms. Jahangir also defended the three Christians, one of who was shot dead outside the Lahore High Court building.

The other two fled to Germany after their acquittal last year. Saima's father, Abdul Waheed Ropri, a member of Ahle Hadith, a militant Sunni Muslim sect, disputes her marriage on grounds that it took place secretly without a "wali", or guardian.

Saima, a business administration student, married Arshad

Ahmad, a lecturer at a government college, on Feb. 26.

She alleges that her father subsequently put her under severe pressure to annul the wedding. She fled her family home on April 9 and sought refuge with Ms. Jahangir, who sent her to Dastak, a shelter for women run by her law firm.

Mr. Ropri has filed a habeas corpus petition at the Lahore High Court for the return of his daughter, saying she was being kept at Dastak in "illegal confinement against her will".

At the first court hearing on April 21, Saima said she had gone to Dastak of her own free will and was now afraid to go

home.

Mr. Ropri's counsel, Nawaz Malik, argued that although Saima was legally an adult, "she cannot be left to roam around the Mall Road (Lahore's main thoroughfare) at will."

Mr. Malik quoted from the Koran to back his contention that a woman may not marry without her father's consent, invoking Islam to argue the superiority of men over women.

The case has been adjourned until May 23.

Saima was sent back to Dastak to await a decision on an issue that human rights cam-

paigners say illustrates confusion at the heart of Pakistan's hybrid legal system.

"There is a fundamental conflict between civil law and law in the light of Islamic belief, which has also been incorporated into the constitution," said L.A. Rehman, director of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

"The courts have contributed to the rise of intolerance in this society by the judgments they have given to the past."

Ms. Jahangir, arguing against the adjournment, said in court on May 8 that Saima was in danger from her relatives, particularly Mr. Ropri's cousin

Hafiz Ayub Ismail, who was present.

After the hearing, Mr. Ismail accused Ms. Jahangir of manipulating Saima to advance what he said was an anti-Islamic agenda.

"She put Saima up to all of this. These human rights activists only turn up when there is something to be said against Islam," he told Reuters.

"We have never threatened anyone," he added. "What we object to is this fake marriage ceremony of Saima's performed behind our backs."

Mr. Ismail denied allegations by Ms. Jahangir that Mr. Ropri and armed men had tried to

seize Saima from her office on April 18, but were foiled by a court bailiff and police who had come to transfer her to another shelter.

"What I have seen done to the women in my family, I did not want to happen to me," Saima told Reuters. "I love Arshad and I married him because I knew he would treat me well."

"I'm afraid for my life," she said. "I have been threatened by my family continuously since I ran away."

"I'm willing to reach a compromise with them," she added, "but not if that means giving up Arshad."

Simplicity — The Good Life

By Jean-Claude Elias

A PRODUCT becomes easy, pleasant to use if we don't have to be experts to be able to use it. It is the designer's duty to ensure the product's user-friendliness. In spite of undeniable improvements in the last decade, personal computers still do not correspond to the ideal image that the layman has in mind, that the masses were dreaming of.

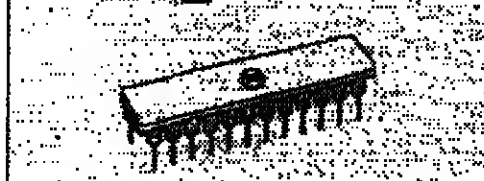
People are constantly told to take training courses, to make an extra effort in order to become computer literate or computer proficient. If it is true that nothing comes without effort, for the overwhelming majority such an effort is disproportionate with the benefit. Especially when one considers that there are constantly new ways to learn. With every new model of PCs, with every new release of software, computer users go to school again. Can you imagine taking additional driving lessons with each new car you buy?

Windows 95, Microsoft's new operating system for PCs released last autumn is a great work of art and technology. It is also unquestionably superior to its predecessor, Windows 3.1. However, it has not proven to be as friendly as users were expecting it to be. In many cases, a computer professional is still required for certain settings and installations.

If, like the vast majority of PC owners, you add a couple of extra hardware options to a PC — a modem and a sound card for instance — consider yourself very lucky if they work from the first time. If you add a third one — a MIDI or a scanner interface — even the "expert" you would call for assistance may have a hard time making everything work together.

What is surprising is that in spite of all the difficulties

chip talk



they encounter, users are still happy with their machines. PCs are being sold by millions every year, from China to the USA, from Sweden to Madagascar. The truth is that most people use but a small part of their computer's possibilities. Though very difficult to estimate scientifically speaking, I would say the "benefit" percentage that home users reach is four to eight per cent, while office usage can reach 20 to 30 per cent.

What computer lovers dream of is simplicity of use, before anything else. Power, speed, performance and sophistication come after. PCs have not yet become simple to use. Designers, manufacturers and software specialists are working on it but it may take a complete generation till we reach the Holy Grail. Information Technology (IT) companies know that however big the current market is, they can make it even bigger by adding real simplicity to the machines and the software.

A time will certainly come when a PC is as easy to use as a car, a TV set or music stereo system. As a leading American columnist said in "PC Magazine" last year: "The best is yet to come."

The sweetest feeling of all

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Sometimes, when we begin to look for words to put them down on paper, we are unable to get the words to come out. Not because we do not want to or because we can't, but because our feelings sometimes, and quite rightly, get in the way.

It can also be that while we feel a need to write something, the mind will just not rise to the task because in its own way it would be telling us that we deserve a break.

Now, what do you suppose happens when the mind takes a day off? I can only say that in such a situation, the words will come straight from the heart. And such words can only be overtly sentimental. This can be a wonderful exercise in honesty and can turn out to be one of the most passionate revelations of one's innermost and most personal feelings.

And it just happens that amidst all things — the irritations of driving, walking, debating, arguing, or working and studying — there rises from deep within the human soul the sweetest feeling of all. The feeling of happiness.

Now, I had once written that happiness was like being a small white fish in the dark deep below the surface of the ocean. A fish that did not want to care for nor mix with others. A fish that had become the most intelligent life form left once all the other species had been made extinct because of environmental degradation. But a fish that, in spite of everything else and in spite of its own miraculous survival, was a very lonesome creature.

A story, perhaps! But this is a story which illustrates the point that happiness cannot be about living alone in the dark. On the contrary, happiness has to be most of all about companionship. It can only be about having all your friends around to celebrate the most important moments in



your life. And it is most of all about a feeling of belonging. About belonging to an intimate circle of friends and loved ones.

Happiness is also about having someone, a special and truly wonderful person, close to you to share with you your moments of joy and sorrow. Someone you can turn to in about absolutely anything. Someone you can turn to in your times of trouble, and someone who can offer a shoulder to cry on.

But finding such a person is not all that easy. It is not easy because you do not go around looking for love expecting to find it around every corner. It can never and should never be that easy. This is all the more better because once you do find love, you will appreciate it even more and will also learn to cherish it and care for it because of what it comes to mean to you. And once you do that, once you realise within your heart that you have found the right person, then nothing in the world will feel the same again. And that is when you will realise just how thankful you ought to be for being so wonderfully blessed. When, for the first time ever, you will feel really and truly happy.

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 23, 1996

- 3:00 Ala Edin
- 3:30 NBA
- 4:30 Pirates
- 5:00 News Flash
- 5:01 French Programme — Le Chat Perche
- 5:30 Varieties — Le Monde Est A Vous
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine — Archimede
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Arabic Calligraphy (Local)
- 8:00 Taratara
- 9:10 Stark Trek
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Feature film — Snowbound
- Starring: Neil Patrick Harris
- 12:00 Rock Legends — Bryan Adams

Friday, May 24, 1996

- 3:00 Pebbles And Bamm Bamm
- 3:30 Movie: Distant Home
- Starring: Melissa Jaffer
- 5:00 News Flash
- 5:01 French Programme — Le Chat Perche
- 5:30 Telefilm — Les Vacances De L'Inspecteur Lester
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine — Allo La Terre
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Water — The Essence Of Life (Local)
- 8:00 Growing Pains
- 8:35 Spring In Jordan
- 9:00 Alia Troupe In Folkloric Dances
- 9:10 Hanging Gale (Drama — Ep. II)
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Classic Movie — The V.I.P's
- Starring: Elizabeth Taylor & Richard Burton
- 12:00 Rock Legends — Rod Stewart

Saturday, May 25, 1996

- 3:00 Pamkin Patch
- 3:25 Circus Of The Stars
- 5:00 Flash News
- 5:01 French Programme — Ordy
- 5:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi
- 5:30 Document — L'Aventure Des Plantes
- 6:00 Scic — Chateau Vallon
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
- 7:35 Facts About Jordan (Local Doc.)
- 8:15 Good Vibrations
- 9:00 Alia Troupe In Folkloric Dances
- 9:35 Prism
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- Feature Film — Country
- Starring: Jessica Lange & Sam Shepard
- 11:10

Sunday, May 26, 1996

- 3:00 The Flintstones
- 3:30 Mac & Muley
- 4:10 Italian League
- 5:00 Flash News
- 5:01 French Programme — Ordy
- 5:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi
- 5:30 Jeux — Que Le Meilleur Gagne
- 6:00 Magazine — Envoye Special
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
- 7:35 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
- 8:00 On The Banks Of Jordan (Local Doc.)
- 8:30 Jordanian Armed Forces Band
- 8:45 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
- 9:10 Annie Lennox — Io Concert
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- Feature Film — Starting Again
- Starring: Joanne Rivers
- 11:15

Monday, May 27, 1996

- 3:00 Bonkers
- 3:30 Richie Rich
- 4:00 Animals of the Mediterranean
- 5:00 News Flash
- 5:01 Children's Programme — Ordy
- 5:15 Family Programme — L'Ecole Des Fans
- 6:00 Magazine — Thalassa
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine — Science
- 7:35 The Nanny
- 8:00 On The Banks Of Jordan/Pt. II
- 8:45 Rock Around The World
- 10:00 Years Of Capitalism In Korea/Pt. III
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 11:10 P.S. I Luv U
- 11:55 Taurus Risking

Tuesday, May 28, 1996

- 3:00 Iris
- 3:20 Captain Planet
- 3:45 Hot Shots
- 4:10 The Bob Morrison Show
- 4:35 Alf
- 5:00 News Flash
- 5:01 Children's Programme — Ordy
- 5:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi
- 5:30 Jeux — Que Le Meilleur Gagne
- 6:00 Medical Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:35 Encounter (local)
- Producer: Rami Khori
- 8:00 Home Improvement
- 8:25 Life In The Freezer
- 9:10 Star Trek
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 11:10 Feature Film — Break Point
- Starring: Corbin Bernsen & Joanne Pacula

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

- 3:00 The Flintstones
- 3:30 Dinosaurs
- 4:00 Bill Nye The Science Guy
- 4:30 Alex Mac
- 5:00 News Flash
- 5:01 Children's Programme — Le Chat Perche
- 5:30 Serie — Maigret Et La Vieille Dame
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
- 7:35 Evening Shade
- 8:00 World Net
- 8:30 Chancer
- 9:10 Hunter
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 11:10 Airwolf

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

TABLE & KITCHEN UTENSILS

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ** Table | Maida |
| ** Fork | Shawka |
| ** Knife | Sikeen |
| ** Glass | Koob |
| ** Coffee Cup | Finjan qahwa |
| ** Milk jug | Ibreeq haleeb |
| ** Pan | Tanjara |
| ** Ladle/scoop | Mighrafa |
| ** Meat chopper | Satoor |
| ** Tin opener | Fattahat ulab |
| ** Strainer | Misfat |
| ** Table cover | Ghita'ul maa'ida |
| ** Dessert fork | Shawkatul fakha |
| ** Napkin | Footatul maa'ida |
| ** Cup | Finjan |
| ** Coffee pot | Bakraj qahwa |
| ** Plate | Sahn |
| ** Frying pan | Miqlat |
| ** Meat board | Laub taqtee' el lahm |
| ** Toaster | Mihmasat khobz |
| ** Pestle | Yadul haun |
| ** Mortar | Haun |
| ** Towel | Footat/minshafa |
| ** Spoon | Mil'aga |
| ** Salt cellar | Mallaha |
| ** Cup and saucer | Finjan wa sahn saghir |
| ** Tray | Seenlya |
| ** Dish | Tabaq (Sahn kahir) |
| ** Egg beater | Khaffaqat bayd |
| ** Sewer | Seekh kebab |
| ** Grindstone | Mijlakha |

JOKES



* Why does the idiot give a salutation when entering the kitchen?
Because his fridge is "General Electric."

* Why does he put two fingers into water when he wants to know the water temperature?
Because he thinks two opinions are much better than one.

* Why does he place the TV sets one behind the other?
To see what is "Behind the News."

* Why does he sleep with one eye open and the other

closed?
Because he took half a pill.

* Why does he take a radio with him when he wants to swim?
To pick out the waves.

* Why does he keep a cat in his sleeve?
So as not to let the mouse play in it.

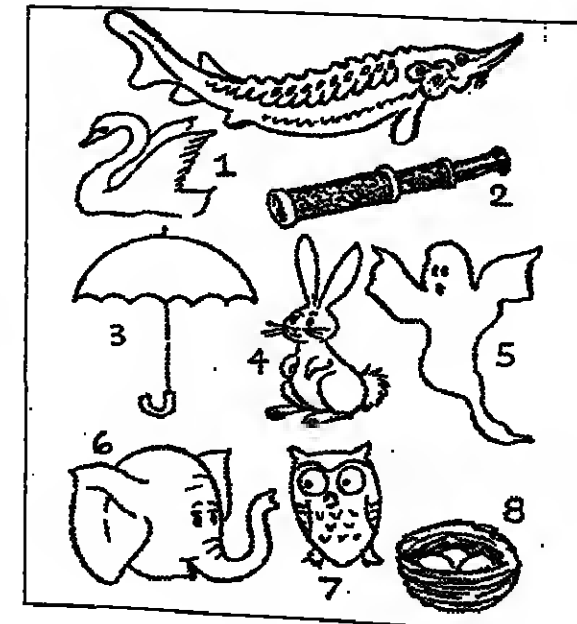
BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the meaning of the name PETER?
2. What is meant by "A cock-and-bull story?"
3. What is the difference between an apiary and an aviary?
4. What is a "marathon" race?
5. Who are the "All Blacks?"
6. Whom did ravens feed?
7. Who was the god that was worshipped and now is believed to be a man?
8. What languages are used in Ethiopia and Afghanistan?
9. What was the name of the material whose shortage had led to the discovery of plastic?

PUZZLES

(A) NAME THIS FISH

This initial letters of the objects will spell out the name of the fish.
Then rearrange the name of the fish to produce two words often used in correspondence.



(B) POOL PROFITS

Alf, Bert, George, and Harry each won a sum of money on football pools. The total of their winnings was £466. Alf won £40 more than Bert. £106 more than George, and £142 more than Harry. What did each win?

Health to expose fault line of British politics

By Alan Wheatley
Reuter

LONDON — Britain's "war of Jennifer's ear" was fought in 1992 but the echo of the battle still resonates.

The opposition Labour Party claimed in the election campaign that eight-year-old Jennifer Beckett had been placed on a long hospital waiting list for treatment for an ear infection.

But another girl got speedy private care, Labour said, deftly playing on voters' fears that Conservative reforms were creating a two-tier health service.

Prime Minister John Major's party went on to win that election but Labour's health message will be much the same at the next election expected in 1997 — under the Conservatives, treatment increasingly depends on wealth not clinical need.

"This health divide between rich and poor is one which the Labour Party cannot and will not accept. It is a divide that marks a fundamental fault line between Labour and the Conservatives," Labour's health spokeswoman, Harriet Harman, said in March.

The perpetual political row over health has intensified since the Conservatives introduced an internal market in the NHS in 1990, turning hospitals into businesses competing to provide care bought by general practitioners and health authorities.

In judging whether the reforms have worked, voters will have to hack through a jungle of conflicting figures and claims.

Last week the government reported that in the first quar-

ter of 1996 only 4,400 people had waited more than a year for hospital treatment, compared with 200,000 six years ago.

"These are remarkable figures," said Junior Health Minister John Horgan, Labour, which regards the creation of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1948 as one of its greatest achievements, says other figures are equally remarkable.

"Why have one in six NHS acute hospital beds been cut since 1990? Why are there 20,000 more managers and accountants in the NHS, but 50,000 fewer front-line staff on the wards?" Mr. Harman demanded to know in a parliamentary debate earlier this year.

The answer, according to the government, is that fewer beds are needed because medical advances such as keyhole surgery mean people spend less time in hospital. And it says nursing numbers have actually grown if account is taken of those in training and the build-up of nurses in general practices.

Whatever the facts are, Conservatives recognise they are politically vulnerable to the perception that their reforms are leading to the closure of local hospitals and an unwelcome commercialisation of a treasured national institution.

Right-wing former cabinet minister John Redwood traced the Conservatives' mauling in this month's town hall elections in England in part to dissatisfaction with public services.

"I don't think we want to see any more hospital wards closed and beds closed. I think we need some reassurance that the right amount of money is going to be routed into

those important areas," said Mr. Redwood, who failed in a bid to oust Prime Minister John Major from the Conservative leadership last July.

Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell stepped in quickly last month to overrule a ministerial colleague who suggested that NHS trusts might be allowed to sell private health insurance, guaranteeing treatment in the private wings of NHS hospitals.

Mr. Major himself is fond of recalling the excellent NHS treatment he got when his leg was shattered in a car accident.

"Against that background it is likely that I would damage the National Health Service or privatise it?" he asked rhetorically in his speech to the ruling party's 1994 conference.

"I can tell you — not while I live and breathe," he replied. Labour is committed to ending the market experiment in health care but, as with other Conservative reforms such as union legislation, moderate leader Tony Blair has no intention of turning back the clock just for the sake of it.

"We are not reversing all the Tory reforms. We keep what is good. We remove what is bad," Mr. Blair said last June when he launched Labour's new health strategy.

Crucially, Labour will preserve the "purchaser-provider split" between the planning of health care — by GPs and health authorities — and the delivery of health services by hospitals.

But it will replace the GP fundholding scheme, which gives participating doctors control over their own budgets and thus the power to shop around for the best care for their

patients. The Conservatives regard fundholding as the jewel in the crown of their reforms, but Labour says it costs £1.5 billion a year in extra bureaucracy and is a recipe for unfairness.

Labour proposes cooperation rather than competition by expanding the existing network of "GP commissioning" groups, whereby doctors and health authorities team up to plan local healthcare needs.

"I think they're going to adopt an evolutionary approach... It's more a question of moulding the service rather than tearing the whole thing up and starting again," Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said.

This would go down well with the NHS's nearly one million staff, who were fed up with constant upheavals, he told Reuters.

But Mr. Hunt said Labour still needed to explain how it would give "bite" to its cooperative system — for example, would a health authority switch patients away from a hospital whose consultants were performing poorly?

Labour has been silent, too, on the crucial question of how much money it would put into the NHS, which Mr. Hunt says is finding it hard to get by on this year's real-terms increase in its £30 billion budget of just 1.1 per cent.

The other key health issue at the election, Mr. Hunt believes, will be the one raised in essence by the war of Jennifer's ear.

"Where are we travelling? Will the NHS continue to provide a comprehensive health service to the nation over the next 25 years or not?" he asked.

Fruit, vegetables 'may extend life'

By Evelyn Leopold
Reuter

UNITED NATIONS — Eating more fruit and vegetables as well as taking a dose of vitamins may prolong life and prevent chronic diseases, according to experts at a three-day international conference on the ageing.

The meeting is the first of its kind sponsored by the United Nations and its Geneva-based World Health Organisation (WHO). It is aimed at advising governments seeking help on rapidly ageing populations, who are making particularly heavy demands on health services.

"The evidence is now undisputed that diet and nutrition are directly linked to many of the chronic diseases afflicting older adults and the elderly," said Dr. Jeffrey Blumberg of Tufts University in Boston.

Dr. Alexandre Kalache, the Brazilian physician who heads WHO's Department of Ageing and Health, said that by 2020 more than 1.2 billion people will be over 65 years old, three quarters of them in the developing world.

In Europe alone the population since 1970 has increased by 17.5 per cent, with those older than 60 increasing by 30.7 per cent and those above 80 years increasing by 62.4 per cent.

In the United States, the current average life expectancy is 75.5 years whereas in 1900 the figure was 47 years — about the same as in many developing countries today.

"The extension of the life span should not be identified with an extension of the process of dying," said former German health minister, Dr. Ursula Lehr, now at Heidelberg University.

"It is not only important to add years to life but also to add life to years."

Eating well was considered preventive medicine, along

with exercise and social and mental activity. Vitamins C and E can also play a role in minimising diseases of ageing, such as cancer, heart disease, cataracts and brain dysfunction.

Several papers stressed "oxidative stress" as one of the leading causes of ageing and chronic disease, caused by "free radicals" and dangerous molecules that damage the body's DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

The "free radicals" are found in cigarette smoke and many pollutants but are also produced naturally by the body.

Nutrition, including a balanced diet as well as vitamin supplements, may play a key role in fighting oxidative stress.

"There is now an overwhelming body of evidence that indicates that increased consumption of fruits and vegetables can dramatically decrease the risk of many of the degenerative diseases of ageing," said Dr. Lester Packer of the University of California at Berkeley.

Some speakers stressed the lack of funds spent on preventive care research. According to Dr. David Dranove of Northwestern University in Illinois this included only a "tiny percentage" of the \$20 billion spent annually on medical research and development in the United States.

However, Alexander Sidorenko of the New York-based U.N. Programme on Ageing cautioned that in many parts of the world an unbalanced diet was really a "euphemism for hunger."

"For these people living longer would entail finding more to eat," he said.

Pakistan combats hidden AIDS menace

By Alistair Lyon
Reuter

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (R) — AIDS, long a hidden scourge in Pakistan's conservative Islamic society, is looming as a far deadlier menace because the nation continues to tiptoe around the taboo subject of safe sex, health workers warn.

For days on end, Akhtar Ahmad's job as a bus driver keeps him from home. He seeks the prostitutes who haunt cheap hotels and restaurants clustered near city bus stations such as Rawalpindi's Pir Wadhai Terminal.

"I know AIDS is a deadly disease, but I don't use condoms," he said. "AIDS is rare in Pakistan. Pakistani women are safe."

A 14-year-old waiter said cooks and older waiters would have sex with him. "Sometimes they pay me, sometimes not. They never use condoms." He had heard of AIDS but knew little about it.

Prostitutes, licensed as "singers" in red light areas, are more informed. "I'm aware of the AIDS threat, but at times it's hard to take precautions," said Sobia, a sex worker who operates from her home in Lahore and has clients in Islamabad.

"Sometimes clients insist on sex without condoms. Since they pay, they have the last say," she said.

Many people in this conservative Islamic society associate the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) virus with what they see as "decadent" Western tolerance for prostitution, homosexuality and drug abuse — all prohibited in Pakistan.

But the World Health Organisation (WHO) predicts that by the turn of the century the bulk of new AIDS cases will occur in Asia — and Pakistan seems unlikely to escape the scourge.

Pakistan has so far reported detect-

ing 1,000 HIV-positive individuals, including 55 with full-blown AIDS.

Birjees Mazhar Kazi, head of the National AIDS Programme, told Reuters that all but two of the AIDS sufferers had died, mainly of diarrhoeal diseases and tuberculosis.

"On the basis of the WHO's computer model, the number of HIV-infected persons (in Pakistan) can be 50,000 to 80,000," Dr. Kazi said.

"AIDS is not yet visible in Pakistan, but the potential problem is phenomenal because of the denial regarding sexual practices and behaviour," said Kamila Marvi of the non-governmental Karachi Reproductive Health Project.

"Denial is dangerous because to find a solution, you must first accept that there is a problem," she added.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has allocated 71 million rupees (\$2 million) to AIDS prevention this fiscal year.

"AIDS has become a cause of serious concern to Pakistan and we are determined to take effective measures to control it," said Health Ministry Director General Naik Mohammad Shaikh.

Some officials argue that Islamic strictures and traditional social pressures discourage sexual licence. Nevertheless, Pakistan, where public health and education standards are generally poor, looks vulnerable to AIDS.

Drug abuse has soared in the last 20 years, with about 1.5 million heroin users among an estimated three million addicts.

Dr. Kazi said the government had set up 30 HIV/AIDS screening centres and was sponsoring a law to require all blood banks to provide only safe blood and blood products for transfusion.

Re-use and poor disposal of needles are common in Pakistan, and Dr.

Marvi said they could be a main way of transmitting AIDS and other diseases such as hepatitis-C.

Health experts acknowledge that sex taboos and religious sensitivities hinder AIDS awareness in Pakistan, where condoms cannot be mentioned in advertising or displayed in shops.

Government-sponsored television spots are far from explicit, showing a couple chastely enjoying the sunset as a deep-voiced commentator advocates fidelity as the best defence against AIDS.

"Due to our cultural and religious background, we cannot use the name condom in electronic and print media campaigns, so we are using a telephone service to convey the message," Dr. Kazi said.

A three-minute recorded message on a 24-hour AIDS hotline set up by the Health Ministry advises: "A little carelessness can suck you into this fatal disease. Restrict your sex to your life partner and use condoms during intercourse."

Dr. Kazi said the government knows many vulnerable people might not use the hotline. "We have involved community-based organisations and non-governmental organisations (to reach those segments of society)," he said.

Eunuchs, known locally as hijras and much in demand as "female" entertainers at weddings, were particularly resistant to safe sex messages, said Aftab Atiq, who is in charge of the National AIDS Programme's information and education section.

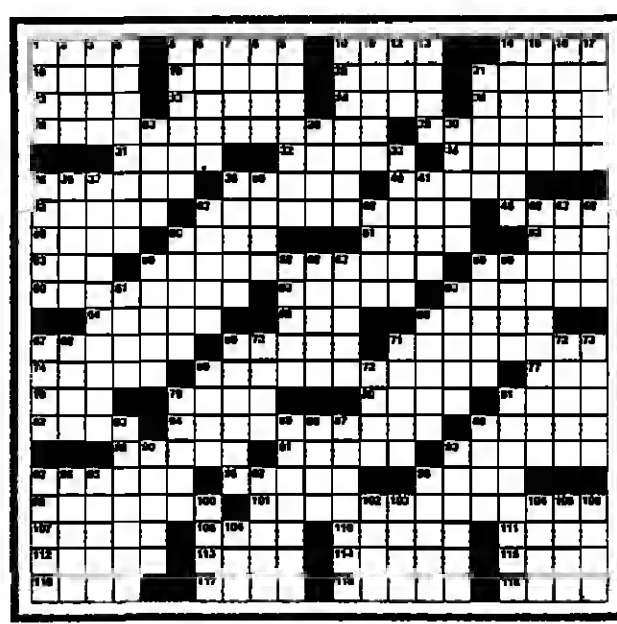
Mr. Atiq said families of AIDS victims cooaled the fact to avoid the stigma, but HIV carriers came from all income groups and social strata in Pakistan.

"We do provide them counselling services, but most are reluctant to contact us again because AIDS is considered to be a social taboo," he said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ONE-MAN SHOW
By Grace C. Pinkston

- ACROSS
1. Antelope's
 2. Yaggy's target
 3. Forest's edge
 4. Litterer's, e.g.
 5. Chignon's site
 6. Actor's wife
 7. Stilet's shoe
 8. Cavalry weapon
 9. Small World
 10. Roca
 11. Cream
 12. Diphtheria
 13. Precipice
 14. Daffodil
 15. Lonesome woman
 16. Put on cargo
 17. One beyond help
 18. Drowsy and feet
 19. State of peace
 20. Musician's
 21. Chapel feature
 22. Cut over water
 23. Withdrawal from
 24. Whorling
 25. Grouper, e.g.
 26. World by Caesar
 27. — (a dog)
 28. The game is always —
 29. Stern — del
 30. Night before a holiday
 31. Muse number
 32. More mild and pleasant
 33. Bearing
 34. Curry flavor
 35. Keweenaw
 36. Woman's shoe
 37. Whistle
 38. Playing card
 39. River bottom
 40. Sediment
 41. Invasive
 42. Monster's wife
 43. Jackson
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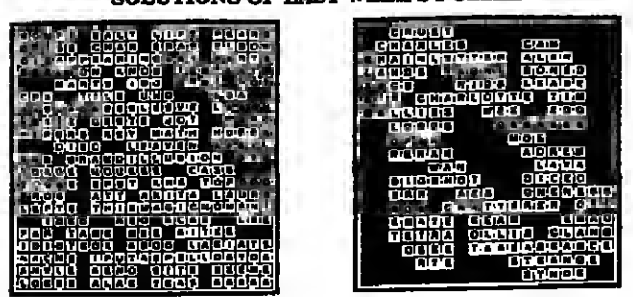
Diagramless, 17x17
By Don Johnson

- ACROSS
1. Uses a shutoff
 2. Substantial
 3. Insertion marks
 4. Clothes
 5. Vests
 6. Rock-shaped
 7. Neck
 8. Mine find
 9. — (a fly)
 10. Weather forecast
 11. Machinery
 12. Woman's shoe
 13. Whistle
 14. Playing card
 15. River bottom
 16. Sediment
 17. Invasive
 18. Monster's wife
 19. Jackson
 20. — (a fly)
 21. Double — (a horse)
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 100. Double — (a horse)

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Heavy smoker lights up another cigarette from every one he puts out. Afraid of bad luck if he breaks the chain!
 2. Joy goes on jagged landscape just after a day of dry heat.
 3. Of course, names of the White Nile was once a popular topic for dispute and discourse.
 4. Complicated! You cryptogram solvers must be above average in intelligence.
- CRYPTOGRAMS
1. P J S D B Z S A P P T P F R Q N E C S T I N A T T F T E X
L Y R O C B Z Z Y C B Z S N T I N S L E X Q V C H
K T F X C. — By Karl Ireland
2. T I W W O F S H U S F R U W E T U S N O S Y U N N O R Y
W A S S O U R A S A R E L I S G N I V N O G O Y U
L A O L E B Y N O K R O O S N O B C E V F Y. — By E.C. Doyle
3. V U G B I N V O P W E D N P V A G B M U E N O C A I V
I E S R A L R C O M M O N H O O M E R S E E V A M N D S U
V M A V S W A L D P. — By Ed Stoddard
4. H S I K L S H I S E A T H P P O T D P O N E D E K N O R E.
— V S H I T L F X O V C S S U L N E C K L S S O V C A
V P R N. — By Dennis G. McGogy

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Bacteria in milk may cause bowel disease — expert

GLASGOW (R) — A bacteria related to bovine tuberculosis may be a common cause of Crohn's disease, a painful and dangerous bowel inflammation, an expert on the illness told scientists.

Dr. John Hermon-Taylor, a surgeon at St George's Hospital Medical School in London, said people could be contracting the disease by drinking milk and the bacteria might be getting into the drinking water supply.

Crohn's, which causes victims to lose weight because their bowels cannot absorb nutrients properly, affects up to 250,000 people in Europe, he said. Anywhere between 250,000 and 500,000 Americans also had it.

Dr. Hermon-Taylor told the European Congress of Microbial Chemotherapy that mycobacterium paratuberculosis — the bacterium which causes Crohn's — resisted pasteurisation, which kills bovine tuberculosis.

"It is a street-smart bug," he said, adding that the bacterium passed from cow to calf during pregnancy, showed up in milk, and survived in cow manure.

The manure washes off into rivers, and he said a study had found higher incidences of inflammatory bowel disease in Cardiff, in Wales, among people who lived along a river found to contain high numbers of the bacteria.

Dr. Hermon-Taylor said two-thirds of all Crohn's patients had the bacteria in their intestines, and more than three per cent of all dairy cows were infected with it.

He said he had tested thousands of dairy cows and found the bacteria. It also turned up in most of his Crohn's patients, but it was hard to detect and diagnose.

"We know it's in our dairy herds," he told delegates to the conference, discussing ways to use drugs to treat infection. The bacterium grows so slowly that standard tests will not find it.

Dr. Hermon-Taylor said the infection, once identified, was easily treated with the proper drugs. He said he had seen remarkable recoveries in Crohn's patients he treated for mycobacterium paratuberculosis.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. A stone
2. An obviously untrue story
3. Apiary is where bees are kept; aviary is where birds are kept.
4. A running race over a long distance; so named after Pheidippides' run to Athens after the battle of Marathon.
5. A rugby football team representing New Zealand.
6. Elijah
7. Micado
8. In Ethiopia, Amharic is the official language, but English is widely spoken. In Afghanistan, the Afghan and Indian are the principal languages.

9. Ivory

PUZZLES

(A) NAME THIS FISH

STURGEON — So urgent.

(B) Alf	£188	10s
Bert	£148	10s
George	£82	10s
Harry	£46	10s

Actor Peter Firth anxious to shed juvenile roles

By David Brough
Reuter

LISBON — British actor Peter Firth, who shot to fame 20 years ago as the young star of *Equus* which won him an Oscar nomination, says it is time to play grown-up roles.

"I want audiences to accept me as a man and not as a boy," the 42-year-old, whose film credits include *Hunt For Red October* and *Shadowlands*, told Reuters in a recent interview in Lisbon where he was shooting his latest film.

"I can no longer play juvenile romantic leads and charming young men," the baby-faced actor said.

Firth, who played romantic leads in *Tess*, directed by Roman Polanski, and the British film *Letter To Brezhnev*, has taken on a supporting part as the villain in his latest movie, *The Garden Of Redemption*, in which he plays a Nazi officer.

"It's the first bad guy role I've had in American TV," he said. "It's a very grown-up role."

The film, a joint production by U.S. Cable TV companies Paramount Network Television and Showtime, is a World War II tale about a relationship between a priest and a partisan woman in Italy as allied forces approach.

In the movie, based on a short story by Anthony Difrancia, Firth, wearing the



British actor Peter Firth in the Varanda cafe in the old village of Sintra where he is acting as a Nazi commandant in the film *The Garden Of Redemption*. Firth, who shot to fame 20 years ago as the young star of *Equus* which won him an Oscar nomination, says it is time to play grown-up roles (Reuter photo)

sinister black uniform of the SS officer, plays a brutal fanatic who interrogates a priest suspected of aiding the partisans.

Anthony Lapaglia, whose film credits include *The Client* and *29th Street*, is the priest. Emeth Davidtz, who had a supporting role in *Schindler's List*, plays the partisan woman.

Firth has had a wide variety of roles since his early fame with *Equus*, in which he played a psychologically disturbed boy who mistakes

horses for God.

He won an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor in 1977 opposite Richard Burton, who played a psychiatrist.

"Burton was the last of the great movie stars," Firth said. "Two stretch limos wherever he went."

Firth starred in the London stage production of Peter Shaffer's play and later in the Broadway show, which earned him a Tony Award nomination.

In the hit movie *Hunt For Red October*, Firth was a

political officer on a Soviet nuclear submarine, who was strangled by Sean Connery in the role of the commander attempting to defect.

Firth was a doctor in *Shadowlands*, which relates the romance between writer C.S. Lewis, played by Anthony Hopkins, and his American lover, interpreted by Debra Winger.

He has played young romantic leads in several BBC drama series, but disillusionment with the roles being offered to him as he grew older led to a five-year

break from films.

"I was not getting the work I wanted to do," he said.

"If you have artistic aspirations, it is hard to reconcile doing work that is not artistic," he added in a thinly veiled jibe at some big budget productions.

But the need for money to support his four children brought Firth back to reality, and now he is working again, after a prolonged rest "in a house and on a boat in Spain," to seek interesting roles accessible to a broad audience.

Firth says he would like more parts in British films, but pickings are slim in the depleted industry.

These days he spends much of his time on foreign sets.

"Film acting is like playing darts in the dark," he said, alluding to the difficulty in predicting a movie's success.

"You know the board is there. You just have to find it."

Theatre has lost its allure. "It's very emotionally draining and expensive on the soul," Firth said.

"Working in the theatre is a calling. It takes up your whole life. The entire day is spent preparing for the performance."

Asked what would be his next project after filming ends in Lisbon, he said with a grin: "I'm going to tend my garden."



British actor Peter Firth in the old village of Sintra dressed as a Nazi commandant acting in the film *The Garden Of Redemption* (Reuter photo)

Ireland counts costs of Eurovision fame

By Andrew Hill
Reuter

DUBLIN — Ireland bemoaned the price of fame after winning the Eurovision Song Contest for the fourth time in five years and with it the dubious honour of having to stage the middle-of-the-road music contest yet again.

The nation's media mixed national pride with cash concerns in reporting how Eimear Quinn was the runaway winner when Norway staged the event Saturday with the voice, a haunting melody out of the current vogue of electric Celtic soft rock.

The victory will mean more fame for 23-year-old student but a cash outlay of some three million pounds (\$4.5 million) for the national semi-state RTE broadcasting network which will have to provide the venue and television cover again next year.

The Irish Times, the country's most sober newspaper, voiced fears in the RTE boardroom on the very day of the contest when it predicted an Irish win under the headline: "Ominous signs of an Irish song contest win."

The country that provides the winner of each Eurovision Song Contest automatically stages the following year's show.

Ireland, which will host the European Union presidency this year and has been the venue for innumerable international conferences ranging from Kurdish peace talks to Third World aid symposia, is normally not shy of such honours.

But commentators appear to draw the line at becoming host and sponsor again of a contest which inspires, even by the standards of pop music, songs of the most ephemeral lightweight nature which disappear, with their singers, within weeks.

RTE put a brave face on it. Officials at the station say that hosting the contest is good, if expensive, publicity for a nation of 3.5 million and for a tourist industry which is growing faster than any other sector in the economy.

The contest is beamed live to all the 20-odd countries on the Eurovision network and attracts its own kind of well-intentioned, instantly forgettable music mounted in a blitz of glitz and out-of-place showbiz extravaganzas.

"It isn't an accident," said the front-page lead story of the best-selling Sunday Independent. "They know they can rely on us, the paties of Europe, to cough up the dough for another hooley



The Irish Eurosong 1996 winner Eimear Quinn (centre) waves an Irish flag after claiming victory in the contest together with the rest of the Irish team. From left: conductor Noel Kelehan, violinist Cora Smyth, bouzouki player Niall O Callanain, tin whistle player Conor Byrne, Eimear Quinn, composer Brendan Graham, backing vocalist Aine Leonard and backing vocalist and key board player Ronan Kennedy (Reuter photo)

(party) next year," it said in a tongue-in-cheek report.

"For years now the scam has been well known throughout European TV stations. Put up a lousy song, you get a three-hour TV show costing millions and you make sure the Irish paties will take the whole thing seriously and end up paying for next year's gig," it said.

"What's another year. Another headache for RTE," lamented the Sunday Tribune in its report of a night it said was full of "kitsch, glamour and mediocre songs."

"A Eurovision win for Ireland would have made

huge headlines—10 years ago but victory has become so commonplace that it failed to make the main story on RTE's late television news bulletin," it pointed out.

The Sunday Independent complained that money for other television programmes, documentaries and features would now have to be channelled into the annual Eurosong fest.

"Money, resources, talent will all have to be diverted to the effort of demonstrating, yet again, that if we spend millions of pounds we can put on a TV show with an expensive set and dire, derivative, passionless music," it said.

Conductor: Beethoven borrowed from French revolutionaries

LONDON (R) — Ludwig Van Beethoven borrowed several tunes from French revolutionary composers in what may have been a coded message of support for the ideals of "liberte, egalite et fraternite", a British conductor said.

John Eliot Gardiner, artistic director of London's Orchestre Revolutionnaire Et Romantique, said he had traced several revolutionary tunes in the "heroic phase" of the German composer's career which included the third and fifth symphonies.

"My thesis is that Beethoven was a man of his times, and was elated by the events of the French Revolution and all that represented," Gardiner told Reuters.

"But he had to be careful about expressing his views, living as he did (in Bonn) in a reactionary German principedom."

Gardiner, who has recorded the whole of Beethoven's work, said one of the most notable "borrowings" was the use of Luigi Cherubini's Hymn Du Pantheon as the basis for part of the Fifth Symphony.

The French words of the hymn, written in Paris by the Italian-born Cherubini, can be translated as "we swear, sword in hand, to die for the republic, and for the rights of man."

But Gardiner, who detailed his findings on a British Independent Television arts programme, the South Bank Show does not accuse Beethoven of plagiarism.

"Many great composers have borrowed tunes from others," he said. "It takes a genius like Beethoven to transform the music of the second rate into something sublime."

Gardiner, a former principal conductor of the North German Radio Orchestra, is mildly surprised that no one has previously noticed the debt Beethoven owed to Cherubini, and other French revolutionary composers such as Claude Rouget De Lisle, who wrote the French national anthem, *The Marseillaise*.

"I think it is the holy priesthood that has protected Beethoven's music for so long," he said. "They perceived Beethoven's symphonies as the untouchable and whole products of an isolated genius."

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

These are times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life, or the repose of a Pacific station, that great characters are formed. ...Great necessities call out great virtues.

Abigail Adams, American first lady (1744-1818)

2 Paris art treasures reopen after face-lifts

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

PARIS (R) — Art lovers need no excuse to come to Paris, but there are two extra reasons to make the pilgrimage this spring.

Two jewels in the French capital's cultural crown — the private Jacquemart-Andre Museum and the public Delacroix Museum — have just reopened after undergoing extensive renovation.

Jacquemart-Andre, one of the best kept secrets in France, is a graceful 19th century mansion on Paris' Boulevard Haussmann, housing a private art collection in the same class as London's Wallace Collection or New York's Frick Collection.

Its treasures include a superb collection of renaissance Italian paintings and sculpture, a room full of Dutch old masters and a bevy of 18th century

French and British artists.

Sumptuously restored during a nearly five-year closure, the museum is a delight to visit. Individual audio systems provide a guided tour of both the architecture and furnishing of this banker's palace and the works of art.

Visitors punch in a simple numerical code for more detailed commentaries on individual paintings or features.

A visit to this relatively confidential museum, which can be capped by a light meal in the elegant tea-room, is the ideal way to recover from elbowing past herds of tourists or schoolkids to glimpse the treasures of the Louvre.

Designed by the architect Henri Parent, the mansion was built between 1868 and 1875 by Protestant banker Edouard Andre during the expansion of bourgeois Paris under Emperor Napoleon III and his town planner, Baron Haussmann.

In 1881, Andre married the noted portrait artist Nellie Jacquemart and the two devoted their 13 years together to buying up art across Europe, especially in Italy, and hosting glittering receptions at their Paris home.

When Andre died, his wife continued to travel in Greece and Italy, Egypt, India and Burma in search of art treasures.

Jacquemart died in 1912 after bequeathing the house and contents to the Institut de France on condition that it should be open to the public as a museum. President Raymond Poincare attended the ceremonial opening the following year.

The interior, with its spectacular marble double staircase, gracious ballroom and galleried hall in which the couple hosted concerts, would be well worth the visit even if it were not studied with well-restored masterpieces.

These include Rembrandt's eerie

Pilgrims Of Emmaus, a haunting Ecce Homo by Andrea Mantegna, a stylised St. George Slaying The Dragon by Uccello and a bustling tiepolo fresco of King Henri III Of France Received By The Doge Cantarini which was painstakingly transferred from Venice to Paris.

Among the French and English collections are works by Chardin, Boucher and Gainsborough, and portraits by Prud'hon, Vigee-Lebrun, David and Reynolds.

Many of the works are beautifully displayed, although the lighting in the library makes it hard to appreciate the dark Dutch and Flemish masters — Rembrandt, Hals and Van Ruysdael — without the reflected glare of the spotlights.

Unlike the spacious Jacquemart-Andre Collection, the Delacroix Museum has had to overcome severe

space constraints in adapting the 19th century master's last home and studio in a residential left bank apartment house.

The once cramped museum, founded by the society of friends of Eugene Delacroix, has gained a little extra space thanks to the purchase of a small adjoining apartment by the state.

The main charm lies in the artist's studio, an airy, high-ceilinged building in a leafy courtyard behind the house, and in the beauty of Place Fusterberg, the square on which the artist spent his last six years from 1857 to 1863.

Anyone hoping to find Delacroix's greatest masterpieces in the museum will be disappointed.

Many are on show in the nearby Louvre and Orsay Museums, in addition to his magnificent wall paintings decorating the National Assembly and Senate chambers, and in the Saint-

Sulpice and Notre Dame De Lorette Churches.

The only major work at the Delacroix Museum is the 1845 *Madeleine In The Desert*, a softly erotic treatment of the religious theme of the death of Mary Magdalen whose "supernaturally beautiful smile" was celebrated by the poet Baudelaire.

But there are a number of other oil paintings, engravings and sketches, reflecting many facets of Delacroix's talent and interest, as well as the painter's palettes and correspondence with relatives and pupils.

The works include scenes from his travels in North Africa, religious paintings, illustrations of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, political cartoons and rare attempts at murals on classical themes, rescued from Valmont Abbey.

An exhibition of the museum's acquisitions of the last decade runs until Sept. 2.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 jailed for 10 years, fined \$1m in Bahrain

MANAMA (AFP) — Three Bahraini men were jailed for 10 years each and fined a total of more than \$1 million for torching electric cables during anti-government unrest last year, the Gulf Daily News said Wednesday. The state security court sentenced the three who are all in their twenties after finding them guilty of setting fire to the cables under Sitra bridge on March 16 last year, it said. The fines of 410,778 Bahraini dinars (\$1.1 million) were to cover the cost of the damage caused by Ali Mohammad Ahmad Kadhem Al Huda, 28, Ali Ibrahim Al Ahmad Ismael, 25, and Samir Ahmad Ali Al Sheikh, 26, it added. Sitra, which is south of the capital Manama, is one area which has experienced the unrest led for the past 18 months by Shiite Muslims demanding a restoration of the parliament which the government suspended in 1975. At least 22 people have died in the violence which erupted in December 1994.

Tunisian court rules for human rights group

TUNIS (R) — A Tunisian court on Tuesday ruled in favour of the country's independent human rights group by cancelling an Interior Ministry order seen as designed to control it, judicial sources said. The Interior Ministry ordered in 1993 the Tunisian League for the Defence of Human Rights (ITDH) to comply with a 1992 law on associations which requires that membership must be open to all applicants. The human rights group prefers to control the admission of new members as a means of ensuring its independence. The administrative court in 1993 temporarily suspended the application of the group's law and on Tuesday decided to cancel the Interior Ministry order. "I welcome this decision with relief and optimism. The court has ruled in a way that reinforces the state of law and guarantees to the ITDH to continue its activities in confidence and legality," ITDH president Taoufik Boudelbala said in a statement. He also praised Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who, he said, has been supporting an "honourable solution" to the issue. The ITDH forbids its leaders from holding a leading role in any political party.

Lebanese diplomat wants to quit S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Lebanon's charge d'affaires to South Africa said on Tuesday he no longer felt safe in the crime-ridden country and wanted to leave as soon as possible after a weekend robbery. "They get in and they spoil our sacred soil. And it is a shame that, really, we don't feel that we have security after what has happened," Charbel Stephan told national television. Violent crime which the police appear powerless to control is one of the most serious problems facing the first all-race democratic government of President Nelson Mandela. Police stepped up security around the Lebanese diplomat's residence after the robbery in which a watch, mobile phone and \$2,000 in cash was taken, but Mr. Stephan told Reuters that he wanted out quickly. "I have asked my government to remove me quickly, I can't afford to stay here anymore. You can tell the (South African) government it's a shame. A lot of embassies have been attacked, and they do nothing about it," he said.

Security Council condemns Islamic Tajik attack

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council on Tuesday condemned the latest offensive by Islamic Tajik rebels and expressed fear such actions would further aggravate the humanitarian situation in the former Soviet republic. It said it condemned "the planned and organised offensive by the armed Tajik opposition in the Tadjikistan region." The Security Council "expresses its grave concern that all such actions further aggravate the already serious humanitarian situation in Tajikistan." The Security Council expressed support for an extension of the cease-fire agreed in September 1994 and noted that the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan agreed to a three-month extension. The statement was read during an official session by the current Security Council president, Qin Huasun, from China. Tajikistan, one of the poorest of the former Soviet republics, has been torn by war since neo-communist leader Emomali Rakhmonov seized power in December 1992, toppling a coalition of Islamic and democratic forces. The Islamic rebels have launched regular attacks from neighbouring Afghanistan against the Moscow-backed government forces. The ceasefire agreement concluded in Tehran in 1994 has been violated on numerous occasions.

Iran lodges protest with Turkey

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran summoned Turkey's ambassador here to protest the killing of a mother and her daughter by a Turkish diplomat in an alleged hit-and-run accident, Iran's official news agency IRNA said Wednesday. The Foreign Ministry protested to Ambassador Mithat Balkan the unidentified diplomat's "carelessness and his inhuman act of fleeing the scene of the accident," it said. It demanded Turkey "cooperate with Iran and make compensation to relieve the survivors of the victims." Tahereh Nabati, 49, and Marjan Pirani, 19, who were killed in the accident in northern Tehran on May 14. The ambassador expressed "sympathy and sorrow" on behalf of the government and said Ankara was ready to cooperate with police to investigate the incident. The Jomhuri Islami daily said Wednesday the daughter had died on the spot after being hit and the mother had died later in hospital. It charged that the diplomat involved in the accident had been hiding in the embassy, and the mission was "arranging to illegally" return him to his country.

Kurd rebels kill two in bold attack

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Suspected Kurdish rebels have killed two people in a daring attack on a Turkish police social club packed with local dignitaries and security officials, police said on Wednesday. Attackers, believed to be Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels, opened fire with automatic weapons at the club from a nearby construction site in the city centre of Batman, southeast Turkey, late on Tuesday night, they said. One policeman and a civilian died and one person was wounded. The province's governor and police chief and a local air force commander were in the building at the time at a function to celebrate Istanbul team Fenerbahce winning Turkey's First Division Soccer League at the weekend. Police fired back but the attackers fled the scene.

7 killed crossing Nile after pilgrimage

MINYA (AFP) — Seven people drowned when their minivan fell off a ferry on Wednesday as they crossed the Nile returning from a pilgrimage celebrating the Virgin Mary at a south Egypt monastery, police said. The minivan with 14 passengers was crossing from the monastery of the Virgin in Jabal Al Tir village, 240 kilometres south of Cairo, to the West Bank of the Nile when the van slipped off the ferry. Police found the bodies of Nur Al Mahdi Sayed Qasim, 45, and her daughter Ezza, 12, and Iman, 2, and were searching for the bodies of her husband and three others believed dead. The driver and seven passengers emerged unharmed from the accident. Jabal Al Tir is the site of a week-long celebration attended by thousands of Muslims and Christians every year to celebrate the Virgin Mary, who is said to have stopped at the site during her flight into Egypt from Palestine.

Ciller declares all-out war on Yilmaz

ANKARA (AFP) — Former Premier Tansu Ciller declared all-out war on her conservative partner Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz Wednesday as their fight for power threatened to sink Turkey's coalition government.

In a series of body-blows to the already fragile coalition, Ms. Ciller called for Mr. Yilmaz to resign, while her True Path Party sought parliamentary action against the prime minister and two party ministers resigned from the cabinet.

Analysts here said that Ms. Ciller was either aiming to restructure the government in a manner that would bolster her hand or was planning to quit the coalition once and for all.

"The prime minister must immediately return his mandate to the President (Suleyman Demirel)," Ms. Ciller told a parliamentary meeting of her True Path.

"The prime minister should undergo a parliamentary enquiry regarding his wrongdoings during his (earlier) premiership in 1991," Ali Riza Gonul, a deputy from Ms. Ciller's True Path told reporters, after he submitted the motions against Mr. Yilmaz to the parliamentary speaker.

One True Path motion accuses Mr. Yilmaz of costing the state \$13 million in extra payments to thousands of former public sector workers. The other urges parliament to investigate Mr. Yilmaz's alleged role in a banking scandal in which a state-run bank's general manager was convicted of taking bribes in return for issuing loans of millions of dollars to some companies.

Ms. Ciller's moves came in retaliation to the parliamentary approval of two corruption motions against her and in the wake of a constitutional court decision to cancel the government's vote of confidence two months ago. The high court said in its May 14 ruling that the March vote of confidence was improperly conducted. However, Mr. Yilmaz said he would not seek a renewed vote of confidence as the constitutional court's decision was not retroactive.

Many deputies from Mr. Yilmaz's Motherland Party supported the two motions raised by the main opposition pro-Islamic Welfare Party against Ms. Ciller in early May, angering the former premier who has accused Mr. Yilmaz of involvement in a plot to finish her political career.

Only hours after Ms. Ciller's call and the submission of motions, two of her ministers resigned from their posts in the Yilmaz cabinet.

Unal Erkan and Ayvaz Gokdemir, the state ministers for urbanisation affairs and relations with Turkish-speaking countries respectively, said in statements that they had submitted their resignations to Ms. Ciller, who would in turn inform Mr. Yilmaz that they were stepping down.

The rifts in the coalition mainly stem from a bitter personal feud between Mr. Yilmaz and Ms. Ciller, who each want to become the sole leader of Turkey's classical right-wing, eliminating the other.

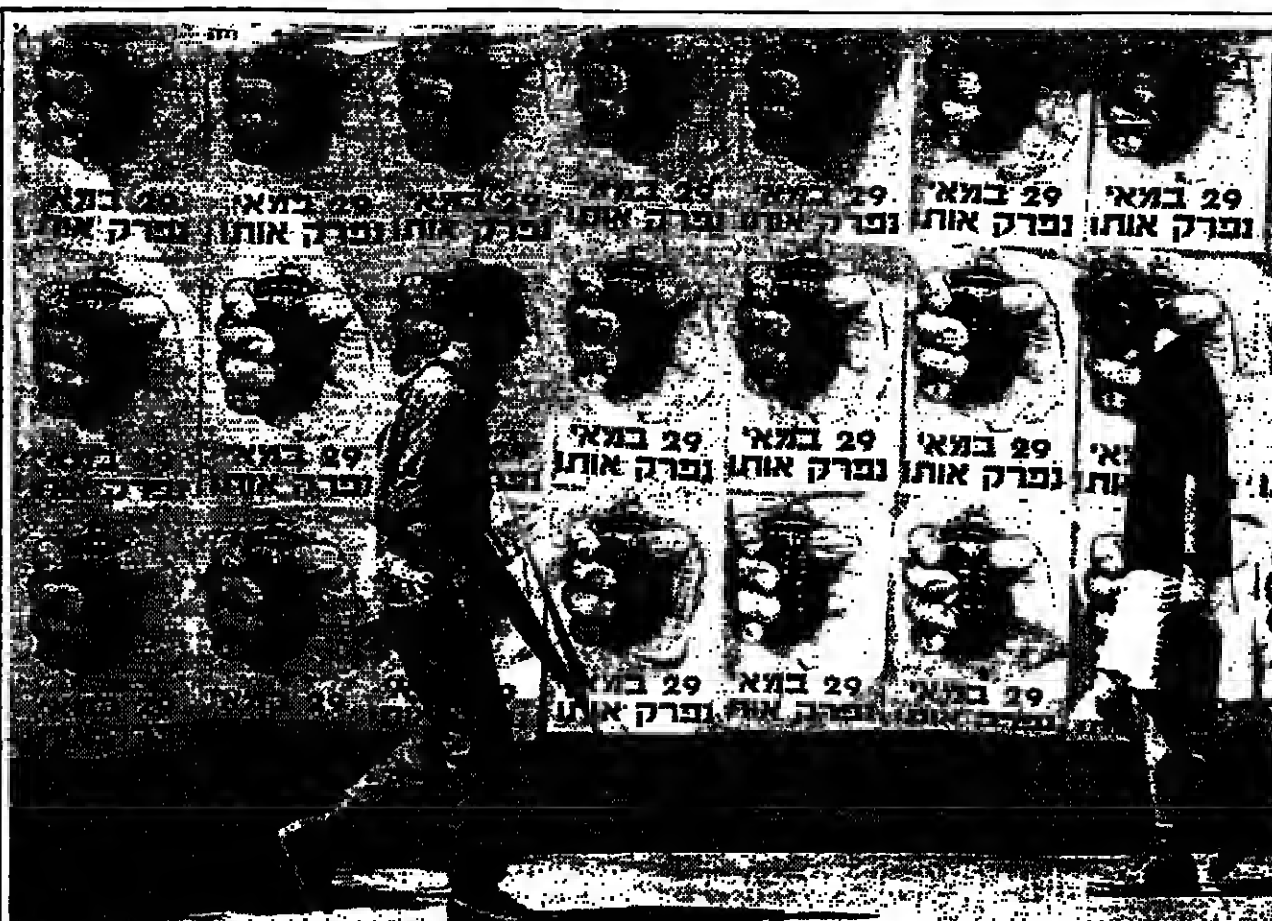
Both Ms. Ciller's True Path and Mr. Yilmaz's Motherland Party won nearly 20 per cent of the national vote in Turkey's general elections in December.

The Welfare Party won the elections but fell short of an absolute majority in parliament. The Islamists also failed in their efforts to find a coalition partner to bring them to power as Mr. Yilmaz and Ms. Ciller finally set up the current right-wing coalition government.

Analysts said that Ms. Ciller wanted the inclusion of the left-wing Republican People's Party of Deniz Baykal, her former coalition partner before the elections, in the coalition government.

If this happens, "Ms. Ciller, who worked harmoniously with Mr. Baykal, is likely to receive his backing against Mr. Yilmaz."

If Mr. Yilmaz rejects the deal, Ms. Ciller may withdraw her True Path from the government at any time, said the analysts.



UNCLAIMED CLAIM: An Israeli soldier patrolling between West Jerusalem bus stops on Wednesday and a civilian walk past a large billboard filled with a new political poster depicting Palestinian President Yasser Arafat as a hand grenade being tightly held. The Hebrew translates as, "May 29, We'll Take Him Apart," referring to the Israeli general election to be held on May 29. No political party has signed the poster, but it is believed a right-wing movement or political party is responsible for its printing (Reuters photo)

Christopher pessimistic about chances for Syrian-Israeli peace agreement this year

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said he was pessimistic over the possibility of an Israeli-Syrian peace accord any time soon, adding that the United States had "serious problems" with Damascus.

"Syria presents a unique challenge," Mr. Christopher told a symposium of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy here Tuesday.

He said the United States had "very serious problems" in its bilateral relationship with Syria since it "remains on our narcotics list as well as on our terrorism list," while it has been directly negotiating with Israel to end their conflict.

"I have no illusions," Mr. Christopher added. "Transmuting that willingness to negotiate into a peace agreement will be difficult and it will no doubt take a long time."

Mr. Christopher said that he and U.S. President Bill Clinton would continue pressing Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to meet U.S. concerns before both countries could build "a mutually beneficial bilateral relationship."

He said that talks so far between Israel and Syria "have provided a solid foundation for progress when negotiations resume, and I hope they'll resume very soon."

Mr. Christopher had hoped to cap 1996, his last year in office, with a groundbreaking peace agreement between the two Middle East antagonists, but a U.S. official quoted in Wednesday's Washington Post daily said that prospect seemed unlikely.

"A formal structure of peace can be reached in the next two years, but real peace among individuals" as sought by Israel was not within reach, said the unidentified official.

Mr. Christopher also said it was "essential ... to point out

Iran's support for terrorism, especially terrorism against the peace process," adding that U.S. determination "to contain Iran and to defeat the enemies of peace must be clear."

"But so is our commitment to press ahead with negotiations on a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace," he said. "Anything less would hand the terrorists the very victory they're seeking by their terrorism."

Syria on Wednesday described Israel's May 29 elections as a conflict among wolves and accused Israeli party leaders of making anti-peace statements to please Israeli voters.

Syria's official press accused the Labour Party of Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the rival Likud led by Benjamin Netanyahu of avoiding commitment to meet the requirements of peace.

"The real description of the Israeli election campaign is a conflict among wolves

because the party (Labour) which is in power seeks to stay there and the Likud opposition party does not hesitate to commit any deed to reach it," the official daily Tishreen said.

"We could have shown no interest in the Israeli elections because it is an internal affair but when issues such as peace and security and Arab rights become subject to violations and bargaining among the parties things become different," the paper said.

The United States and several Arab governments consider Mr. Peres as more moderate than Mr. Netanyahu but the Syrian paper made no distinction between the two.

"A focus on undermining the peace process and evading commitment to its requirements by the Israeli parties and organisations in their election programmes ... show an Israeli animosity to peace..." Tishreen said.

Calm returns to Bangladesh, 5 generals detained

DHAKA (R) — At least five generals were reported under house arrest as Bangladesh returned to normal Wednesday after a showdown between President Abdur Rahman Biswas and his sacked army chief.

Offices and shops in the capital Dhaka opened for business as usual as fears eased of a crisis over leadership of the armed forces ahead of general elections set for June 12.

Military sources said the five generals had been under house arrest since Tuesday.

Apart from dismissed army chief Lieutenant-General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, those being held include the two generals whose forced retirement sparked this week's trouble.

They are Major-General Morshed Khan, army area commander in the northern district of Bogra, and Brigadier Miron Hamidur Rah-

man, deputy director-general of the Bangladesh Rifles. The Defence Ministry, under the president's control, ordered the forced retirement of Gen. Khan and Gen. Rahman last weekend, setting in motion this week's troubles.

On Monday Mr. Biswas accused Gen. Nasim of defying the order and planning to stage a revolt, and promptly fired him.

Soldiers in tanks and armoured carriers moved swiftly to guard the presidential palace and highways into Dhaka, while troops in some provincial barracks backing Gen. Nasim showed ominous signs of unrest, eyewitnesses reported.

By Tuesday night however all troops in the provinces had returned to their barracks.

The two other generals under house arrest were Brigadier Shafi Mahub of

the Bogra Garrison and Brigadier Zillur Rahman of Mymensingh Garrison.

On Wednesday, Dhaka's streets were clogged as usual with traffic and there were no soldiers on patrol. In another sign the city was back to normal, political parties resumed campaigning.

What fate awaits the five generals was not known, but military sources said they might be court-martialled for trying to undermine or overthrow the government.

"It's an open guess. They may be court-martialled or just pardoned," one source said.

Bangladeshis vote on June 12, hoping to end years of political turmoil brought to a head in March when opposition strikes forced Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to quit.

She resigned on March 30 after February elections were boycotted by opposi-

tion parties. A caretaker administration was named by Mr. Biswas to run the country until the June vote.

Mrs. Khaleda's BNP alleged the army rebels had "active links" with political parties, especially Sheikh Hasina's Awami League.

Diplomats said President Biswas, a former speaker of parliament and member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), apparently opposed Gen. Nasim's alleged sympathy towards the rival Awami League.

Mrs. Hasina told nearly 15,000 of her followers at a rally in Dhaka Tuesday that Bangladesh needed calm ahead of the elections to ensure continuity and promotion of democracy.

Mrs. Hasina reaffirmed her support for Bangladesh's caretaker government, headed by former Chief Justice Habibur Rahman, which is responsible for holding the elections.

Palestinian journalists protest

(Continued from page 1)

'Charter not amended'

An Israeli watchdog group said Tuesday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) did not amend, but only froze sections of its charter calling for Israel's destruction.

The group peace watch said it had obtained an internal publication of Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction of the PLO that said no changes were made to the charter at the April 22 session of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

Israel had conditioned the continuation of peace talks with Mr. Arafat on the amendment of the PLO Charter.

"The text of the Palesti-

nian national covenant remains as it was and no changes whatever were made to it," the document said, according to Peace Watch. The covenant is "frozen but not annulled."

The amendment of the covenant has been questioned by Israel's opposition Likud Party and by critics in the United States.

But Uri Savir, director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, said Tuesday that his government was satisfied that the sections of the charter calling for Israel's destruction were indeed "null and void in all points."

Mr. Savir said he had been assured by Mahmoud Abbas, the chief Palestinian negotiator, that a new charter will be drafted within six months

and "will not contradict the commitment of the Palestinian (National) Authority" to the peace agreement.

Abbas replaces Surani

The PLO Executive Committee has named Abbas, the main Palestinian architect of the peace process, as its secretary-general, official sources said.

The 18-member committee held its first meeting since being named in April at the office of Mr. Arafat late Tuesday.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said the committee elected Mr. Abbas to replace Jamal Surani as its Secretary-General.

Mr. Abbas is considered Mr. Arafat's closest deputy. Mr. Sourani, who had clashed with Mr. Arafat over

aspects of the peace process, was dropped from the committee when the new members were named on April 25.

Protest over detention

Palestinian intellectuals and political activists called Wednesday for the immediate release of detained human rights campaigner Iyad Sarraj, who was arrested for criticising the PNA.

A statement faxed to AFP said Dr. Sarraj's arrest contravened "the freedom of expression which must be one of the basic pillars" for democracy in a future Palestinian state. It called on the PNA to "encourage criticism."

The 21 signatories included leading West Bank academics Salim Tamari and Khalil Shaki.

Iraq: U.N. deal is insufficient

(Continued from page 1)

danced in the streets two days earlier to celebrate a deal they had expected would roll back inflation.

Merchants said prices would fall when humanitarian goods allowed under the accord start arriving in one month or more, but a European diplomat cautioned that the "situation will not change too much" because it's a "no-money deal."

Nibras Ali, an Iraqi housewife who left a vegetable market here in anger, said she had expected prices to drop rather than increase.

"This is all I can buy," Ms. Ali said as she held out a bag of cucumbers. "No vegetables. No fruit. Too bad, the kids will eat rice again today."

The dinar also climbed to 738 to the dollar on Wednesday from 600 on Tuesday, and after going as low as 400 to the dollar just after the deal was announced, Iraqis earn on average 3,000 dinars a month.

The dinar hit an all-time low of 3,000 to the dollar in January, but started recovering weeks later when Iraq announced it would enter negotiations with the United Nations in New York to implement U.N. oil-for-food Resolution 986.

"People believed that prices would drop and that the goods would arrive right away, and are disappointed to realise they must still wait at least one month," Wissam Ali, a merchant, said. "After more than six years of sanctions, we no longer have any patience," he added.

The U.N. Security Council meanwhile remained divided over Iraq despite the unity displayed following the sealing of the oil-for-food deal.

French Ambassador to the United Nations Alain Dejammet told the Security Council on Monday that the agreement was "positive" as it could "reflect a development in the relations between Iraq and the international community."

In a speech in New York on Tuesday, U.S. Vice President Al Gore said the "clear message" to Baghdad was that "there can be no discussion of modification to the overall sanctions regime until Iraq has met fully all of its obligations to the United Nations."

In addition to meeting U.N. requirements on disarmament, Iraq must also pay war reparations and return Kuwaiti missing persons and equipment, in order to obtain the total lifting of the crippling trade and oil embargo.

British Ambassador to the United Nations John Weston said that the 15-member Security Council was "very clear" in its demands laid down in Resolution 687, which spelled out the ceasefire conditions at the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

"It is necessary to look at all the other requirements laid upon Iraq at the end of the war by the U.N. Resolutions before we see what is needed for sanctions to be raised," he stressed.

Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Sergei Lavrov recognised that Iraq still needed to meet further U.N. demands before the sanctions could be lifted.

Peres picks up Arab support

(Continued from page 12)

announces the results of its exit polls.

The television exit polls have been accurate in predicting the two big upheavals in Israeli politics — in 1977, when Labour lost to Likud, and in 1992, when Labour returned to power.

The central election commission — made up of 38 representatives from different parties and headed by a former supreme court justice — is expected to complete its computerised count of the regular ballots by about 5 a.m. Thursday, said Orli Ades, a spokeswoman for the panel.

Throughout the night from Wednesday to Thursday, interim results will be published, Ms. Ades said. Average voter turnout in the past has been 78 per cent, with 3,933,250 voters eligible this year.

If the results published at 5 a.m. Thursday show a tie or a gap of less than half a per cent, the race will be determined by the estimated 105,000 absentee ballots, Ms. Ades said.

Jordan pays dearly for food subsidies

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordanians have a record-breaking appetite for eating bread.

With a one-kilogramme costing just six U.S. cents, the average consumption per head is about 115 kilograms a year, among the highest in the world, officials say.

Government subsidies make bread so cheap that many people use it for feeding animals. But that appetite is eating a large hole in the government's budget.

Jordan is being forced to rethink its costly food subsidy programme because of record world grain prices which are expected to double its food import bill in 1996 and to exacerbate its chronic budget deficit.

Most food is subsidised and bread is sold at less than a third of cost. Domestic food output meets only five to eight per cent of needs and the import bill has already more than doubled in less than a year.

Worried officials forecast a wider deficit in Jordan's 1.80 billion dinar (\$2.54 billion) 1996 budget if no way is found to meet costs.

In 1995 Jordan paid over 97 million dinars in subsidies on food imports including barley and maize for animal fodder.

The government first plans a public awareness campaign to curb waste of bread. Another step could be ending the state monopoly on imports of wheat, sugar, rice and powdered milk.

Minister of Supply Munir Sobar said state purchases would continue for ration card holders, but other Jordanians may have to pay world prices to private importers.

"Figures have doubled with increases of 200 per cent and above for most commodities and this affects the deficit in Jordan's 1996 budget and also the deficit in the budget for commodities subsidy," he told Reuters.

The ministry is the sole importer of basic commodities wheat, rice, sugar, barley, yellow corn and powdered milk.

The food import bill, mainly for wheat, topped \$150 million in the first three months of 1996 but it was restrained by the min-

istry drawing on its stockpile of around three months' consumption.

Jordan still qualifies for substantial help under U.S. export credit guarantee programmes PL 480 and GSM 102, but the elimination of the U.S. export enhancement programme that subsidised U.S. exports will push up Jordan's import bill, traders say.

The current food ration programme was launched to help the population of 4.2 million, most of them poor, after riots in 1989 which were triggered by a rise in the price of bread recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The ministry has long been attacked by merchants for monopolising the commodities trade, which it says is essential to protect poor Jordanians. When prices were low it even made profits on items it no longer imports such as frozen meat and chicken.

The food subsidy programme is a crucial part of the country's social safety net, with many officials and economists arguing it is vital for social harmony in the debt-ridden country.

But the IMF and the World

Bank, both advocating free market reforms, want gradually to eliminate all subsidies. They say Jordan's wide safety net helps those not in need at heavy cost to the state's meagre resources.

At the moment, the government's strategy is to reduce abuse by focusing on aiding those who really need it.

"If we deliver subsidies to those who are really in need we can reach acceptable subsidy figures in the budget that do not run counter to the (IMF) economic restructuring programme," Mr. Sobar said.

The government has already restricted ration cards to families earning a maximum of 500 dinars per month in an effort to stop more wealthy Jordanians receiving subsidised sugar, rice and powdered milk.

But, to the dismay of authorities, nearly 87 per cent of Jordanian households applied last year for 1996 ration cards, a figure officials insist is inflated.

Mr. Sobar says the ministry does not have adequate data on income — including incomplete tax lists — to know who is telling the truth. But he hinted at exam-

ining incomes declared elsewhere.

"There are segments of people with a high income who are benefitting from these ration cards," Mr. Sobar said. "We believe if we want a subsidy policy we have to support entitled classes with low income."

Other steps under study include depriving over 300,000 low-paid foreign workers — consuming an estimated 25-30 per cent of Jordan's total imports of wheat, sugar and rice — from the ration system.

Only after a protracted process of determining who needs rations, can the government turn its attention to the sensitive issue of raising bread prices. After the 1989 riots, the government remains wary of increasing the price of the main staple.

Higher bread prices would still have to be offset for the poor by cash handouts.

"If there is a survey of those who qualify for subsidies in an accurate way, we will reach the real numbers and from then on, as we give them coupons for sugar, rice and milk, we can give them the cash difference for the rise in the bread price," Mr. Sobar said.

Jordanians divided on impact of U.N.-Iraq accord

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Stock prices of Jordanian food and drug firms selling to Iraq firmed, shippers rejoiced and money-changers counted windfall profits after Iraq's "oil-for-food" deal with the United Nations.

But officials and businessmen were divided on what Jordan's \$6 billion economy would gain because of the tension since Jordan turned on its former ally last August.

The accord, signed Monday allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy food and medicine for its people, suffering under stringent economic U.N. sanctions since Baghdad invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Jordanian shipping agents expected a mini-boom at Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba, still Iraq's

main trade conduit, in the next months as Baghdad rushes to import wheat, sugar, rice and other commodities to replenish depleted coffers.

They also predicted a knock-on effect for Jordan's 8,000 trucks plying the Amman-Baghdad highway, handling agents and other service sectors working at half capacity since 1990.

Among Jordan's money-changers, each million Iraqi dinars, bought for 1,000 Jordanian dinars (\$1,400) last week, sold Tuesday for 1,600 dinars (\$2,240).

"There is an Iraqi dinar craze in the market," said a moneychanger, who like many, hoarded millions of Iraqi dinars for speculation. "Now is the time for us to make quick profits after we sat on them for over two years."

At Jordan's stock market, dealers said blue

chips of firms with strong links to Iraq firmed on the news despite an overall lacklustre performance.

"The Iraqi issue added a positive spin to the weak market," a dealer said.

The accord also raised hopes among the over 300,000 Jordanians who had to flee Kuwait during the crisis that they would get promised compensation from a U.N. fund this year.

But officials and businessmen pondered the consequences of Jordan's decision, earlier this year to slash by half exports sent to Iraq under an annual trade protocol in return for all the Kingdom's oil supplies.

Jordan, eating mounting Iraqi debts, cut trade to just over \$200 million from \$400, dealing a fresh blow to Jordan's pro-Iraqi business community.

(Continued on page 9)

Economic growth key to ending attacks — Palestinians, U.N.

CAIRO (AFP) — Economic development is the only way to combat terrorism, the U.N. and the Palestinians said Tuesday sounding the alarm over the disaster facing the self-rule territories because of the Israeli closure.

"There is no more effective means to reduce violence and promote a climate for peace than to guarantee that peace accords bring tangible and immediate improvement in the lives of Palestinians," said U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

The message from the U.N. chief was read by the head of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Peter Hansen at the fourth U.N. colloquium on rebuilding the Palestinian economy which opened Tuesday in Cairo.

"We ask for emergency aid of \$50 million to create jobs for 80,000 Palestinians who have lost their work in Israel due to the closure of the territories," Palestinian Finance Minister Zohdi Al Nashasbi said.

The West Bank and Gaza strip have been sealed off since a string of suicide bombings left over 60 dead in Israel in February and March.

Under the closure, unemployment has reached 70 per cent, noted Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Adel Al Saifi.

"Donor nations must hurry to provide aid promised during their meeting in Paris in January totalling \$865 million, of which \$73 million is targeted for reducing the budget deficit of the Palestinian National Authority," Mr. Nashasbi said.

The authority has a deficit of \$100 million, which could mount to \$150 million if the closure continues, he added.

Only \$10 million of the promised funds for the deficit have been provided, and only \$27 million of a total \$175 million to start up vital infrastructure projects have arrived, he said.

Under the closure, production in the territories has dropped anywhere from 35 to 50 per cent in May, and could reach 60 per cent in June, he said.

The closure causes daily losses of around \$6 million, he said, noting that the West Bank has been sealed off for a total of 275 days since the launch of autonomy in May 1994.

Total bank deposits in the territories, valued \$1.2 billion in 1995, only 16 per cent of them from the private sector.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1996

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you go to an expert in business today, you have every opportunity to gain fine expertise. Know how to please your mate with attention you pay to him or her later this evening and you will receive much in return.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Long talks with a fellow associate can bring greater understanding today and you can reach a fine compromise to any disagreements which may be present. Know what is expected of you by your loved ones later this evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Sunday new systems and mechanisms which can make your regular career activities easier today and more profitable at the same time. Later tonight you can spend some fun times with your close friends out on the town.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study different amusements today and be sure you have been enjoying the right ones which you feel are comfortable to you both physically and psychologically. Later tonight is good for you to rest for the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) See what can be completed today to bring greater harmony between you and members of your family. Be charming towards those individuals who have the power to make your life successful and prosperous.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use much tact and cleverness today in going after information you need to become more successful and you will get it. Through the use of your own instincts you will be able to accomplish a great deal concerning your career.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can do much to add to your present income and feel more secure in the days ahead. Take time today and tonight to listen to ideas of others and decide which will be the more practical in your new project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Know what your most cherished wishes are today and how best to attain them. Try to combine business with pleasure and thereby you will not feel to tense towards pleasing those in authority and can make you prosperous.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can concentrate today on a new course of activity or sit with an expert to guide you in this. By taking this individual's advice you can make the right decisions with any new project which is at this time in the works.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do something to show appreciation to friends today who can helpfully do something for you as they have in the past. Tonight you can show that you are very accomplished in your career activities by handling any crisis situations.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Find out what bigwigs expect of you today and try to please them with your efforts. Feel proud of yourself tonight by showing those in authority you have the capability to handle any situation thrown at you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There are fine opportunities to take advantage of today and you can advance in your career by being alert of them and by following the advice of one who is an authority in whatever project you are involved in currently.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hand Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GADMO **DUPON** **VEEVOL** **GOTFRE**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

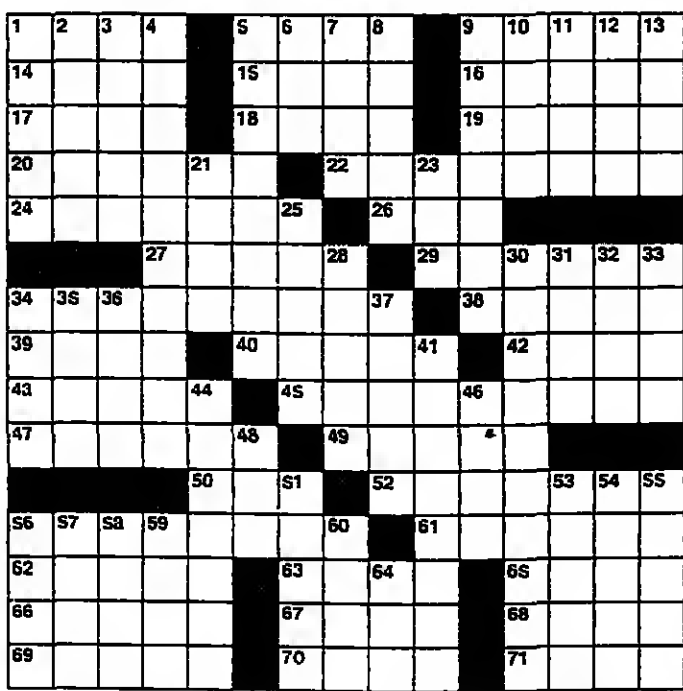
Yesterday's Jumbles: **CAKED TRAIT BLUING BROOCH**
Answer: In the scenic community the town dump was this — **BREATH TAKING**

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Glenton Patgrave

ACROSS

- 1 Farm shelter
- 5 Folklorist's account
- 9 State capital
- 14 Febrile condition
- 15 Distinctive style
- 16 Rubbish
- 17 In the raw
- 18 Wheel's hub
- 19 Forgive
- 20 Go! around
- 22 Special atmosphere
- 24 Merchants
- 26 Oh, sure!
- 27 Creme-de-la-creme
- 29 Gentlemen: abbr.
- 34 Lacking social distinctions
- 38 Sign of exertion
- 39 Makes public
- 40 More sensible
- 42 Pale yellow
- 43 Transmits a certain way
- 45 Devoted
- 47 Thanksgiving
- 49 Cul in two
- 50 Incline downward
- 52 Emit heat
- 56 Celestial
- 61 Pea relative
- 62 Widespread damage
- 63 Various areas
- 65 Egg on
- 66 In lorce
- 67 Muscat's land
- 68 Concerning
- 69 Propelled a boat
- 70 Spiciness
- 71 A stone's throw away



Yesterday's puzzle solved



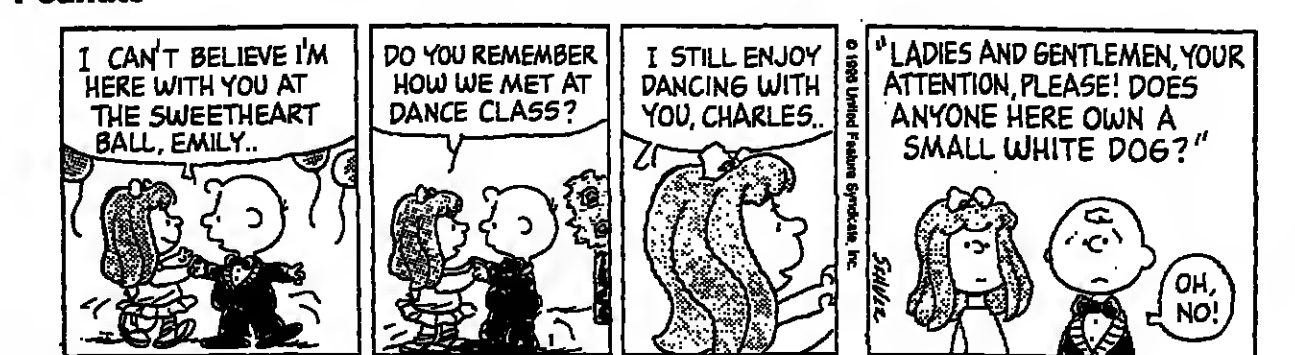
- ### DOWN
- 1 Toddlers
 - 2 Ornamental plant
 - 3 Pasloral
 - 4 Without necessity

- 5 Twining plant
- 6 In honor of
- 7 Hot rock
- 8 Antagonist
- 9 Lines
- 10 Field
- 11 Draw a picture
- 12 Legendary
- 13 Measure out
- 21 Sniggles
- 23 Good-for-nothing
- 25 Advantage
- 28 Slaves of old
- 30 Administering an oath to
- 31 Cult
- 32 Hard to find
- 33 Macho man
- 34 Tent spot
- 35 Unbelievable one
- 36 Solo
- 37 Passover feast
- 41 Standing up to
- 44 Enriched
- 46 Relinquish

- 48 Tease
- 51 Leader
- 53 Do penance
- 54 Jeweled headwear
- 55 Senior
- 56 Lad

- 57 Circle encompassing a saint
- 58 Disastrous deed
- 59 Wander about
- 60 Stupor
- 64 Tin

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



A review of news from the Arabic press

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3722/32	Canadian dollar
	1.5408/18	Deutschemarks
	1.7234/44	Dutch guilders
	1.2674/84	Swiss francs
	31.617/71	Belgian francs
	5.2183/33	French francs
	1559.5/1.0	Italian lire
	106.98/08	Japanese yen
	6.8240/40	Swedish crowns
	6.6000/50	Norwegian crown
	5.9484/34	Danish crowns
	1.4089/94	Singapore dollar
	0.7915/25	Australian dollar
	7.7348/53	Hong Kong dollar
One Sterling	\$1.5900/00	
Gold (ounce)	\$390.80/391.20	

World Team Cup

Sampras crashes to shock defeat

DUSSELDORF (AFP) — World number-one Pete Sampras played his first match since the recent death of coach Tim Gullikson and crashed to defeat at the World Team Cup here on Tuesday.

Sampras, still deeply affected by the death of his coach who died of brain cancer on May 3 at the age of 44, was beaten 7-6 (7/5), 2-6, 6-3 by Bohdan Ulihrach.

The victory gave the Czech republic victory over the United States since earlier Petr Korda had beaten Todd Martin 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

Sampras clearly needs to put in a lot of work before arriving in Paris for next week's French Open. Against Ulihrach he looked lethargic, had trouble with both his forehand and backhand, and nearly half of his first serves failed to find their mark. That left him with no weapons at all against a steady and intelligent opponent.

Ranked 38th in the world, Ulihrach beat Boris Becker in

Milan earlier this year, and he recently won the Prague title. Although he is not a member of the power player club, he places the ball well and claimed many points with winning returns off of Sampras's tentative serve.

Sampras broke to take a 2-0 lead but lost his own serve in the next game when he netted a forehand. Another forehand error allowed Ulihrach to break for 6-5, but this time Sampras broke back.

A hail storm that stopped play at 6-6 should have given Sampras an opportunity to recover his poise, but the greater stability he showed in the second set didn't last long.

Although Sampras broke to lead the final set 1-0, Ulihrach took the next five games and then served for victory.

Sampras denied him with an overhead on break point, but the Czech refused to be thrown off at his second

opportunity. Sampras again held a break point, but three forehand errors handed the match to his more consistent opponent.

"As my first match for quite a while it felt pretty good, but my shot selection wasn't great," admitted Sampras.

"Mentally I'm as good as I can be right now, but the conditions were very slow because of the weather. The problem was that the hail was getting me in the eye."

"It was a weird match, up and down, and I hope each match I play here this week I'll get a little bit better. I hope it will be enough preparation."

Preferring fast court surfaces, Sampras has difficulty in adjusting his game to clay.

"The problem last year was that I played too much on clay and lost my own game, serve-and-volleying and being aggressive," he said.

"I want to be patient, but

still be aggressive — especially on big points.

"Technically, I'm not going to change much. It's choosing shots to come in on at the right time. It's shot selection, not my strokes. That's the problem I run into sometimes on clay."

Rain prevented any doubles being played on Tuesday, and that left the tie between Russia and the Netherlands tied at 1-1.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov took almost two hours to overcome Richard Krajicek 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 7-5 in a contest that was so close that the outcome could not be guessed until the final ball.

There was just one exchange of breaks in the first set, and a Kafelnikov break for 3-2 was enough to decide the second. In the final set, Kafelnikov broke to lead 6-5 and served out for victory. Paul Haarhuis put the Netherlands on level terms when he overcame Andrei Chesnokov 7-5, 6-3.

IOC commission meets Salt Lake organisers

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The IOC is pleased with progress organisers have made toward holding the 2002 Winter Games, but some areas that need work.

The IOC's coordination commission members met with the Salt Lake Olympic Organising Committee for the first time on Tuesday, and concluded the committee is much farther along than previous organisers.

"As a joke I said Salt Lake City wanted to organise the Olympic Games earlier than 2002," Marc Hodler, commission chairman for the 2002 Winter Olympics and president of the International Ski Federation, said at a news conference following the private meeting.

Hodler commended Salt Lake organisers for the progress they have made in forming their committee and planning the games. The groups also talked about venue plans, marketing, finances and broadcasting rights.

"Certainly more remains to be done but never under pressure for the next five years," he said.

Some of the areas Salt Lake organisers do need to iron out include cross country and downhill ski venues, and the site of the athlete's village, Hodler said.

The commission, he said, is concerned that the designate site for cross country competition may not have enough snow because the altitude is too low. Commission members proposed moving that site from the mountain side golf course to a higher level

near the Mormon Trail.

"The best area is different from the one included in the bid," he said. "We hope a compromise can be found."

Tom Welch, president and chief executive officer of the SLOC, said the two sites are in the same general area, and that a move likely would require public hearings to address environmental issues. The process could take about a year, he said.

Salt Lake organisers also must decide where to put the athletes' village. They had hoped to locate it at the south end of Fort Douglas near the university of Utah. But the U.S. army must first give its OK since it still owns the site.

Also pending is a proposed land swap between the U.S. Forest Service and the Snowbasin Ski Resort to accommodate the 2002 Olympic downhill and super giant slalom events.

The matter is awaiting discussion in the U.S. House of Representatives after passing the Senate. Environmentalists have opposed the swap, calling it a "land grab" by the resort, which needs no more than 700 acres (290 hectares) for the Olympics.

Hodler said he hopes the exchange will be approved to allow for a "top quality downhill site in the U.S."

Asked about whether the IOC was concerned about controversy surrounding a new state law that bans school clubs for gay and lesbian students, Hodler said he had not been informed of the matter.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sabatini out of French Open

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Gabriela Sabatini has withdrawn from next week's French Open tennis championships after losing her race to get fit from a stomach muscle injury. The 26-year-old Argentine player, ranked seventh in the world, has not missed a French Open since 1985.

Graf stays in jail

MANNHEIM (AFP) — Peter Graf, the father of world tennis star Steffi who is facing charges of tax evasion, failed to win bail on Tuesday. A Mannheim court source said it was feared Graf, who has been held in prison for the last nine months, might not surrender to his bail. His trial is not expected to begin before September 5. Graf and financial consultant Joachim Eckardt are alleged to have hidden \$28 million of Steffi's earnings between 1989 and 1993, thus failing to pay \$13 million in tax.

Beckenbauer back in hospital

MUNICH (AFP) — Bayern Munich president and stand-in coach Franz Beckenbauer was readmitted to hospital on Tuesday for further treatment for intestinal complaints. Beckenbauer, 50, who was only released from hospital on Monday, will spend the next two weeks having treatment.

Benfica defender joins Swansea

LONDON (AFP) — Joao Moreira, a defender with Portuguese club Benfica, has joined Welsh team Swansea for an undisclosed five-figure fee, the English third division club announced Tuesday.

'We'll win Euro title' say German coaches

HAMBURG (AFP) — Coaches of leading German football teams are convinced the national team will win the upcoming European championships in Britain. According to a poll published in the magazine Kicker, 15 Bundesliga coaches believe Germany will score their third triumph. The other three tipped Croatia to take the title.

Becker struggled with injury

DUSSELDORF (R) — Boris Becker's preparations for next week's French Open have been hit by a thigh muscle injury. The former Wimbledon champion was forced to pull out of his singles match against clay-court specialist Sergi Bruguera at the World Team Cup on Wednesday. David Prinosil was named as his replacement in Germany's round-robin group match against Spain. Becker has chosen to come to the Dusseldorf tournament for the first time for six years for last-minute work on his clay-court game. The German has never won a tournament on the surface. But the 28-year-old lost his opening match against Swiss Marc Rosset in straight sets on Monday.

Voller says goodbye with a goal

LEVERKUSEN, GERMANY (AFP) — German veteran striker Rudi Voller ended his 18-year international career with a goal during an exhibition game between the current national side and a team of former players. Voller changed sides at half-time to score for the current German side to their 3-1 win. The 36-year-old won 90 official caps for Germany, scoring 46 times. Voller is to become sporting director with Bundesliga club Bayer Leverkusen.

Wimbledon bids to beat the gloom

LONDON (AFP) — Wimbledon will use "glowing" tennis balls at this year's tournament to combat gloomy weather, it was announced on Tuesday. The All England Lawn Tennis Club is following the lead set by the Australian Open this year. The balls, treated by a yellow dye, should be easier to see, providing fractionally longer reaction time against big servers like Britain's Greg Rusedski, who has been clocked at 138mph, and champion Pete Sampras. Last year a slower ball was introduced in an attempt to combat the power servers. This is the latest step towards encouraging longer rallies and greater entertainment value for spectators. Chris Goringe, chief executive of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, said: "Wimbledon is committed to maintaining its position as the world's leading Grand Slam tournament."

Bulls lead Magic 2-0

CHICAGO (R) — Michael Jordan scored 25 of his 35 points in the second half as the Chicago Bulls overcame an 18-point deficit and escaped with a 93-88 victory over the Orlando Magic and 2-0 advantage in the Eastern Conference finals Tuesday.

Jordan's offence and a smothering defence over the final six minutes of the third quarter allowed the Bulls to climb back into a game they had appeared to give away. Chicago limited Orlando to 24 points over the final 18 minutes and moved within two games of their fourth NBA finals appearance in six years.

Shaquille O'Neal had 36 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic, who played without forward Horace Grant and squandered a golden opportunity to steal home-court advantage away from the Bulls, who had won the opener by 38 points and lost just two home games all season.

The series moves to Orlando for games three and four on Saturday and Monday.

Jordan, limited to 10 points in the first half, scored Chicago's first eight points of the third quarter. But Orlando remained in control and a basket by O'Neal gave the Magic their largest lead at 64-46 with 6:11 remaining in the period.

The Bulls finally came alive with a 21-5 run over the remainder of the quarter. Jordan scored nine points and Jud Buechler and Ron Harper sank three-pointers as Chicago shut down O'Neal in the low post.

Chicago trailed 69-67 entering the final period and a basket and free throw by Pippen gave the Bulls their first lead since the opening quarter.

O'Neal, defending the smaller Dennis Rodman while Jon Kucak guarded centre Luc Longley, scored 10 points in the first quarter as Orlando opened a 23-20 lead.

O'Neal took over in the second quarter, scoring 16 points. He had a pair of



Chicago Bulls' Dennis Rodman (91) pulls down a rebound in front of Orlando Magic's Shaquille O'Neal (centre) during second quarter action of the NBA Eastern Conference finals, May 21 in Chicago. Bulls' Michael Jordan (right) looks on.

do used Nick Anderson and reserve Anthony Bowie on Jordan and Penny Hardaway and reserve Donald Royal on Pippen, who scored eight points.

Rodman took advantage of the slower O'Neal, scoring

the first four points of the game and beating him to several rebounds. But Chicago had no answer for O'Neal, no matter who defended him.

O'Neal had 26 points and 11 rebounds in the first half after scoring 27 with six rebounds in game one.

New York Knicks stick with Van Gundy

NEW YORK (AP) — Jeff Van Gundy, who replaced Don Nelson in March and guided the New York Knicks to the second round of the U.S. National Basketball Association playoffs, will be the team's coach next season.

The Knicks on Tuesday night scheduled a news conference at Madison Square Garden. The club would not confirm the appointment, but a source said Van Gundy was indeed the choice.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that Van Gundy signed a two-year, \$2 million contract. He had been operating under a non-guaranteed, \$1 million contract for next season.

Van Gundy, 34, took over as head coach March 8. He has a seven-year association with the Knicks, having worked as an assistant under Nelson, Pat Riley, John MacLeod and Stu Jackson.

Ernie Grunfeld, the club's president and general manager, had said Van Gundy's performance would be evaluated after the season. And the Knicks fared better in the playoffs than most expected.

While there was speculation the Knicks would pursue a more prominent coach in hopes of recapturing some of Riley's allure, management decided to stick with its self-deprecating career assistant who produced handsomely in two months on the job.

New York swept Cleveland in three games in the first

round, then lost to Chicago in five games, but the Knicks made things tough for the Bulls throughout the series.

Van Gundy, instituting many of Riley's defensive principles and returning the team to an ethic of hard work, won the endorsement of Patrick Ewing and the respect of an often difficult group of players that had bickered and languished under Nelson.

"I come to work every day, and I think I know what my contribution should be," Van Gundy said during the playoffs. "To try to have a working environment that's the best it can be for the players, to plan and prepare and get them ready for the next game and to fight anything that gets in the way of winning."

"I know that NBA basketball is about 2 per cent coaching and 98 per cent playing. And that's probably the biggest thing I've done well. After I've done those three things, I've tried to stay out of the way."

Setting on a coach is the first of many decisions confronting the Knicks. Derek Harper will be a free agent this summer, as will J.R. Reid, Willie Anderson, Gary Grant and Herb Williams. Ewing has only one season left on his contract.

New York will have about \$10 million under the league's salary cap to lure free agent players, hoping to land some of the league's biggest headline players.

Sonics happy with their performance so far

SEATTLE (AP) — It has been 24 days since the Seattle SuperSonics lost a basketball game, a span of eight wins that earns the Pacific Division champions a mention in the same breath as the mighty Chicago Bulls.

You see, no team has won eight straight in the post season since the Bulls did it in 1993 — the Bulls' last championship year.

"We are a damn good basketball team," coach George Karl said Tuesday, the day after his team took a 2-0 lead over the Utah Jazz in the best-of-7 series with a 91-87 victory. "Eight straight playoff wins means (nothing), but it's really fun and I'm proud of the guys."

Both teams took the day off Tuesday, with the series to resume Friday night.

Game 4 is Sunday.

So far, Games 1 and 2 have been marked by the strong play of Shawn Kemp — when he hasn't been in foul trouble — and the job Gary Payton has done outplaying John Stockton.

Kemp, who played the final 10:50 of Game 2 with five fouls, scored Seattle's last two field goals and had a crucial steal of a pass by Stockton with just under 30 seconds left.

It was the seventh turnover of the game for Stockton, who did little after scoring Utah's first three baskets in the first quarter.

Payton has outscored Stockton 39-15 in the series and holds the edge in assists (15-14), field goal percentage (47-39), steals (7-2), 3-pointers (4-1) and rebounds

(6-2).

"He came out a little more aggressive," Payton said. "Maybe he's been reading the paper about me outplaying him. I can't do that all the time."

With Stockton not looking for his shot, the offensive burden fell on Karl Malone and Jeff Hornacek. Malone scored 32 points, including 18 in the third quarter, and Hornacek had 22, but none in the final quarter when the Jazz were outscored 26-14.

"Stockton got only two points after the first quarter — I think we're doing a good job on him," Karl said. "I think he is the priority of the

series. (Karl) Malone is probably second. We have more schemes and thoughts on John Stockton than we do on Karl Malone."

The Sonics have outscored Utah by a combined total of 51-36 in the fourth quarter, reversing a trend in which the Jazz outscored their opponents in 10 of their first 11 playoff games.

The bench is another key. Seattle's reserves have outscored Utah's 52-35, the main contributors being Sam Perkins (10-for-17, including 6-of-9 from 3-point range) and Nate McMillan (12 points, nine rebounds, nine assists, three steals).

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Show: 5:00

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Roman Amphitheatre to host Arab Youth Boxing Championship starting Monday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Participants from eight Arab countries Monday begin competition in the 3rd Arab Youth Boxing Championship which will be held here July 1-6.

Boxers from Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan will be contesting the five-day event which will be held at the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman.

While following up final preparations for the event, Jordan Boxing Federation (JBF) Chairman Mohammad Suleiman said he expected Jordan's boxers "to score positive results and obtain advanced standings in the competition." Suleiman made his statement after attending the team's practice and follow-

ing the end of qualifying matches to decide the final lineup.

Asked about the decision to hold the championship in the Roman Amphitheatre Suleiman explained that it came about for a host of reasons. "Holding the event at the amphitheatre will hopefully prove to be suitable for many reasons. I know it will bring back many memories to fans of the sport as many bouts were held there from 1958-1965."

The JBF chairman said the venue is easily accessible to fans in addition to being a prime archaeological site in the capital.

Jordan's team includes Abdul Hamid Hiyasat, Murad Majed, Nabil Haimour, Humam Hamzeh, Hazem Oqielan, Munib Saqqa, Mohammad Hassan, Yousef Rasmi, Ayoub Hasanat, and Ahmad Houwari.

White Sox beat Indians 4-2 to close AL Central gap

CHICAGO (R) — Rookie James Baldwin held the Indians to two runs in six innings and Bill Simas escaped a bases-loaded, none-out jam as the Chicago White Sox beat Cleveland 4-2 Friday to move within a game of the American League Central leaders.

Baldwin (7-1), who has won four straight games, allowed five hits and five walks, striking out four.

"Tonight was tough for me because it was the first time I faced Cleveland (and Albert Belle)," Baldwin said. "Simas did a tremendous job and so did the defense."

With Chicago up 4-2 in the seventh, Simas left the bases full by striking out Belle and Jim Thome before getting Eddie Murray to bounce out.

"It was tough to hold my composure," Simas said. "After the second out, I really wanted to let it loose, to jump up and down, but I didn't. I wanted to limit myself to one run in that situation with three tough hitters coming up and fortunately, it worked out."

"The game came down to us having the bases loaded and not scoring any runs," Indians manager Mike Hargrove said.

Roberto Hernandez pitched a perfect ninth for his 21st save. Indians starter Dennis Martinez left the game in the fourth with a strained flexor muscle in his right arm.

Julian Tavarez (2-5) took the loss in relief.

Eddie Murray hit his 490th career homer for the Indians, who have lost seven of their last eight games and have split four meetings with Chicago.

In New York, Rafael Palmeiro hit a pair of two-run homers and Cal Ripken drove in three runs, including the go-ahead run in the ninth, as the Baltimore Ori-

oles snapped a three-game losing streak with a 7-4 victory over the Yankees.

The Orioles beat the Eastern Division-leading Yankees for the first time in four meetings this season, reducing their deficit to 4 1/2 games. The Yankees lost just their fourth in 12 games.

Reliever Arthur Rhodes (9-0) remained unbeaten with 3 1/3 scoreless innings. Reliever Mariano Rivera (3-1) took the loss.

In Seattle, Jay Buhner sparked a seven-run first inning with a three-run double and Joey Cora had two triples, two singles and three RBI as the Mariners continued their dominance over the Texas Rangers, 19-8.

Brian Hunter, Edgar Martinez and Dan Wilson also homered for Seattle, which has 121 four-baggers. Luis Sojo had a career-high five hits, all singles, to spark a 22-hit attack.

The 19 runs tied the club record and the 22 hits fell one short of the franchise standard. Both were also against Texas.

The Mariners have won 23 of their last 28 games against the Rangers dating back to 1993.

At California, Jason Giambi hit a two-run homer and Ernie Young and Damon Mashore added solo shots to lead the Oakland Athletics past the Angels 6-3.

Six of Giambi's last seven hits have been homers. Mashore's homer was the first of his Major League career as Oakland won for the eighth time in 12 games.

Bobby Chouinard (2-2) won his second consecutive start while Angels starter Chuck Finley (9-6) failed to become the fifth 10-game winner in the American League.

In Kansas City, Kevin Appier pitched a five-hitter

and Keith Lockhart doubled twice and drove in three runs to lead the Royals to a 6-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Appier (7-7) retired the last 15 batters. He walked two and struck out eight.

Lockhart went 3-for-4 with a two-out, two-run double in the third and an RBI double in a four-run sixth.

Minnesota's Marty Cordova had an RBI single in the first to extend his hitting streak to 22 games, tying Baltimore's Roberto Alomar for the longest in the majors this season.

Minnesota's Brad Radke (4-10) lost his fifth straight start and is the third 10-game loser in the American League.

In Boston, Tim Lincecum drove in four runs, including a key two-run single in a four-run fourth, and Lee Tinsley added three RBI as the Red Sox defeated the Detroit Tigers 8-5.

Tim Wakefield (5-8) snapped a personal three-game losing streak. Brian Williams (1-5) took the loss.

In Toronto, Jeff D'Amico threw 5 2/3 scoreless innings in his Major League debut and Greg Vaughn continued his torrid month with a solo homer as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Blue Jays 5-1.

D'Amico, a 20-year-old righty, came up from Double-A El Paso earlier in the day and is the youngest player in the majors. He walked the first two batters he faced, but settled down and gave up only two hits.

Juan Guzman (6-6) took the loss.

Vaughn was 2-for-3, has hit in 14 straight games and has 12 homers and 34 RBI in June. His 12 homers equal the team record for a month, set by Gorman Thomas in August 1979.

Modahl wins first round in court

LONDON (R) — Diane Modahl has fought off a high court attempt by the British Athletic Federation (BAF) to block a massive damages action she has brought after clearing her name of drug-taking allegations.

The judge, Justice Popplewell, on Friday rejected the BAF's argument that her case should be struck out because it showed no reasonable cause of action.

He said it should be argued at a full hearing which is expected to take place towards the end of the year. "I cannot say that this case is doomed to failure," he said.

The ruling means Modahl, who will run in the 800 metres in Atlanta, can go ahead with her claim for compensation for the 480,000 pounds (\$743,500) legal and medical costs incurred in challenging a four-year drug ban imposed after tests carried out in Lisbon in 1994.

Doubts were eventually cast on the accuracy of the tests and the ban was lifted earlier this year.

Modahl, who is seeking a similar figure in punitive damages over the way her case was handled by the BAF, said: "It has been a stressful few days and I am happy now that I can concentrate on athletics again."

Surin beats world class field in Paris

PARIS (R) — Canadian Bruny Surin surprised some of the world's greatest sprinters including world champion Donovan Bailey and Olympic champion Linford Christie with victory in the 100 metres at a Grand Prix meeting here Friday.

With the Atlanta Olympics less than three weeks away, Surin clocked a somewhat disappointing 10.03 seconds in a race in which the top class field had been expected to test the world record of 9.85 seconds of American Leroy Burrell.

Fellow Canadian Bailey was second in 10.04 with Briton Christie third in 10.05.

Sampras, Stich, Novotna safely through; Ferreira, Rosset crash out of Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) — Defending champion Pete Sampras took another step towards a fourth consecutive Wimbledon men's singles crown here Saturday when he swept into the last sixteen by chalking up a 6-4, 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/3) centre-court victory over 107th-ranked Karol Kucera of Slovakia.

The match lasted 2hrs 26mins the world No. 1 now plays either 16th seeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline or 94th-ranked Jan Krosiak of Slovakia for a place in the quarterfinals.

Looking cold and uncomfortable in the distinctly chilly conditions, Sampras found himself trailing 1-4 in the fourth-set and he had to fight hard to force the tie-break with Kucera playing well above himself.

But the Slovak player's revival had come too late and, helped by what luck that was going, Sampras closed out in the second tie-break of the match.

Meanwhile, sixth-seed Jana Novotna survived the first week at Wimbledon when she defeated Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 6-3, 6-1.

The 1993 finalist, who had her right forearm heavily strapped, started badly, dropping her serve twice to go 1-3 down before getting her act together.

She now plays Cambodian-born Patricia Hy-Boulais of Canada.

Hy-Boulais came through a tough three-set clash against 28-year-old Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

In other third-round matches Swiss teenager Martina Hingis, the 16th seed, beat Linda Wild of the United States 6-3, 2-6, 6-1



Germany's Michael Stich

while Elena Likhovtseva of Russia beat Larisa Neiland of Latvia 6-3, 4-6.

Patrick Rafter of Australia reached the fourth-round of the men's singles when he defeated recent French Open semifinalist Marc Rosset in a five-set thriller on the number-one show court.

The 23-year-old Australian trailed twice in the match but finally surged home 4-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.

The 77th-ranked Rafter now plays either Russian Davis Cup player Alexander Volkov or fourth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

Alexander Radulescu of Germany also reached the last sixteen when he completed a 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4,

look at the way they do the draw," said the tenth-seeded German who won the title here in 1991.

"All the big servers show up in the top-half and all the so-called clay-court servers, except Boris (Becker), show up in the bottom half. They should think about the way they're seeding the players. It's not good for the tournament this year."

"I'm not saying that I or anybody else should be ranked higher."

But they should just try to make sure that the big servers are split up.

"At the moment Krajicek, Rosset, Ivanisevic, Sampras and myself are all close together with Pioline — who was in the quarterfinals last time. And in my opinion it's very sad for the tournament."

Stich made the remarks after scoring a 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Stolle on the same court where both Andre Agassi and Michael Chang came to grief earlier in the week.

He now plays either New Zealander Brett Steven or Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

Todd Martin of the United States became the only seeded player left in the bottom-half of the draw when he defeated Renzo Furlan of Italy 7-6 (7/1) 6-4, 6-2.

Eleventh-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, was earlier beaten in a grueling three-hour marathon by Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, 1-6, 5-7, 6-1.

The results mean that Gustafsson now plays Britain's number-one Tim Henman while Martin faces Thomas Johansson of Sweden.

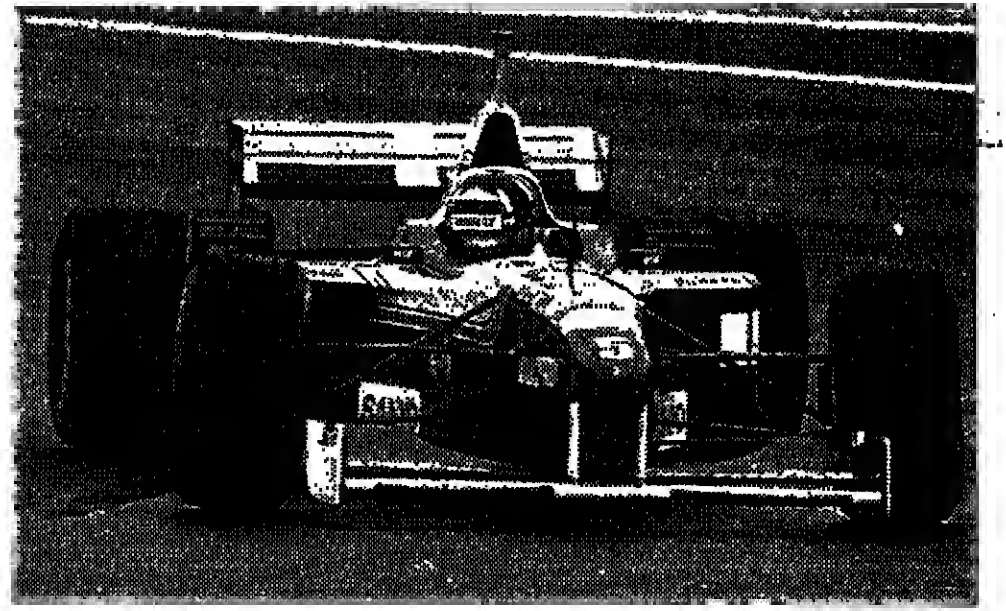
Schumacher takes pole after Villeneuve crashes

MAGNY-COURS, France (R) — Reigning world champion Michael Schumacher claimed pole position on Saturday for Sunday's French Grand Prix after Canadian Jacques Villeneuve crashed heavily midway through the qualifying session.

Villeneuve was unhurt and he was able to rejoin the session, after a delay of half an hour, in the Williams team's spare car.

Schumacher, driving a Ferrari, clocked the fastest time of one minute 15.989 seconds to secure the 13th pole of his career and his third this season since joining the Italian team from Benetton.

The time left the German six-hundredths of a second clear of current championship leader Damon Hill of Britain, who will line up alongside him on the front



Damon Hill of Great Britain in action during the second free practice of French Grand Prix on Magny Cours circuit June 29. The Grand Prix will take place Sunday (Reuters photo)

row of the grid.

Frenchman Jean Alesi and his Benetton team mate Gerhard Berger of Austria were third and fourth quickest and will fill the second row.

Villeneuve lost control of his Williams after 28 minutes of the hour-long session as he drove through the high-speed golf curve, one of the fastest parts of the Magny-Cours track.

His car ran wide, went

over the kerb and then refused to be steered back on to the asphalt despite Villeneuve's efforts in the cockpit as it careered across gravel traps and grass at nearly 275 kph.

In the end it flew into a wall of tyres guarding a barrier on the left of the circuit. The impact tore off both left wheels and sent the car into a spin backwards across the circuit where it was narrowly

missed by a passing McLaren driven by Briton David Coulthard.

Villeneuve was unhurt and when the car came to a standstill he was able to climb out and walk away unaided.

He rejoined the session in the team's spare car but was unable to improve on his earlier time and ended sixth-fastest, sharing third row of the grid with fifth-placed Mika Hakkinen.

Rockies bomb Dodgers; Giants lose 8th straight match

DENVER (R) — Andres Galarraga hit his third homer in two games and Dante Bichette and Vinny Castilla added three-run shots as the Colorado Rockies handed the Los Angeles Dodgers and interim manager Bill Russell their fourth straight loss 13-4 Friday.

Galarraga, who homered twice and drove in a team-record eight runs Thursday, hit a two-run shot off starter Ramon Martinez (6-2) in the bottom of the third.

Bichette, who hit his 15th homer in the fourth, leads the National League with 75 RBI. Galarraga is second with 74.

"It's fun to have cat on this team for the past four years," Bichette said. "We've been able to push each other in RBIs every year. Cat says to me, 'how many you got now?' we kind of kid around and I say, 'I've got one up on you.'"

Martinez surrendered eight runs and 11 hits in our innings after giving up 17 runs over 25 innings in his previous four starts.

"This is a difficult place

to pitch, everybody knows that, because if you hit a groundball or anything, if you hit it good, the ball jumps," he said. "There's nothing you can do."

Eric Karros had two RBI on a homer and a single for Los Angeles, 0-4 since Russell, in for the ailing Tommy Landa, was ejected in the eighth for arguing balls and strikes.

Martinez Freeman (6-4) was the beneficiary of the Rockies' second straight offensive explosion.

In San Francisco, Andy Ashby and four relievers threw a six-hitter and Chris Gwynn hit a three-run homer in the first inning as the San Diego Padres handed the Giants their eighth straight loss, 6-1.

Ashby (8-2) won his fifth straight decision on three hits with two walks and four strikeouts over five scoreless innings. He left with stiffness in his right shoulder.

Bryce Florie worked one scoreless inning and Scott Sanders tossed a scoreless seventh before allowing one unearned run in the eighth. Ron Villone pitched to one batter in the eighth

and Trevor Hoffman got the final five outs for his 14th save.

Chris Gwynn started in right field in place of his injured brother Tony, who has a sore right heel.

In Houston, Mark Clark threw six strong innings and Alex Ochoa had three hits and three RBI as the New York Mets won their season-high fourth straight, 7-2 over the Astros.

Clark (8-6) won his fourth straight decision, allowing two runs — one earned — and five hits, walking none and striking out six. Over his last seven starts, the righty has given up just 11 earned runs in 56 1/3 innings (1.76).

Doug drabek (3-6) took the loss as the Astros, who had a modest two-game winning streak snapped, fell into a tie with St. Louis for first place in the NL Central.

In Cincinnati, Reggie Sanders hit a pair of homers and drove in three runs and Hal Morris added a solo shot as the Reds won their sixth straight, 7-4 over the Chicago Cubs.

In Philadelphia, J.R. Phillips hit a pair of solo

homers and Benito Santiago a three-run job as the Phillies snapped a five-game losing streak, 7-3 over the Montreal Expos.

Philadelphia banged out a season-high 16 hits. The Phillies, who have lost 14 straight on the road, won for just the fourth time in 21 games overall.

In St. Louis, Donovan Osborne (7-4) scattered five hits over eight innings and John Mabry and Ron Gant homered as the Cardinals got their sixth straight home win, 6-1 over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

At Florida, Al Leiter outduelled Tom Glavine with seven scoreless innings and Jeff Cozine drove in both runs as the Marlins won their fourth straight, 2-0 over the Atlanta Braves.

Leiter (9-6), in his 100th career start, scattered seven hits with seven strikeouts and three walks. He snapped a two-game losing streak. Leiter moved past Glavine and Neagle as the Southpaw with the most wins in the NL.

Robb Nen closed out the Braves in the ninth for his 16th save.

Kenya's Tanui fends off challenge in 1,500m

KASARANI, Kenya (R) — Olympic 800 metres champion William Tanui fended off a strong challenge from young rivals Friday to qualify for the 1,500 metres final in Kenya's Olympic trials.

Tanui was 0.30 seconds behind little-known Elijah Maru who won their semifinal in three minutes 42.50 seconds. Lucas Morogo was third.

"It was tough but I think I can get the (Olympic) place," Tanui said.

The second semifinal was won by another unknown, soldier Laban Rotich, in a 3:36.70 with Stephen Kip-

korir second and veteran David Kibet third.

Martin Kipruto Keino, son of 1972 Olympic champion Kipchoge Keino, Reuben Chesang, John Kibowen and Benard Langat complete the field for Saturday's final.

"The fellows you call unknowns are really what must be watched at these trials. They are very good," said Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) secretary David Okoye.

Vincent Malakwen booked an 800 metres final berth, winning his semifinal in 1:45.70 ahead of Benson Koeh and Francis Marwa.

David Kiptoo won the second semi in 1:44.40, ahead

of Frederick Onyancha and Robert Kibet.

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مكتبة عبد الرحمن

NATO will not chase Karadzic

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO will not unleash its huge force in Bosnia to hunt down Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic if the international campaign to push him out of power fails, alliance sources said on Tuesday.

They said NATO commanders considered Mr. Karadzic "not worth one single soldier's life" even though his removal from power is a key condition of the Dayton peace accord which ended the war in Bosnia.

The commanders' stand is discreetly supported by France, Britain and the United States, the main countries participating in NATO's 60,000-strong peace implementation force (IFOR).

All three are anxious to keep any casualties to a minimum.

"Whatever the moral arguments of bringing Karadzic to heel, there are forgotten the moment one speaks of casualties. No one is prepared to take casualties for Karadzic. He is not worth one young life," one source said.

But critics of the commanders' attitude to Mr. Karadzic fear NATO risks going down the road trodden by its predecessor, the United Nations, which saw its credibility "melted in Bosnia after failing to match words and action."

IFOR is soft on the Serbs it is the end of Dayton, said one diplomat.

Independent analysis argue

that weakness over Mr. Karadzic would make it easier for the Bosnian Serbs to realise their main aim, the rewriting of Dayton to prevent any emergence of a multi-ethnic Bosnian state.

"The only real split in the Serb camp is on methods, not on aims. Under no circumstance do they want to be under any Muslim-dominated government," said Jonathan Eyal of London's royal United Services Institute.

He added that Mr. Karadzic's future was linked to the wider question of how far the West was prepared to stick to the letter of Dayton — already a cause of renewed U.S.-European tensions.

In Hague, the U.N. criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia said it would hear evidence against Mr. Karadzic and his military chief, General Ratko Mladic, next month under its "rule 61" procedure.

Mr. Karadzic and Gen. Mladic have been indicted twice in their absence by the tribunal. They are accused of being responsible for genocide and crimes against humanity in connection with the siege of Sarajevo and the fall last year of the U.N. "safe area" at Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

"Rule 61 is a reminder that the accused are charged with crimes which demand a legal accounting," tribunal spokesman Christian Charter said.



BLAST IN DELHI: Indian firefighters rummage through smouldering markets gutted after a bomb devastated the bustling area in New Delhi ON Tuesday. At least 20 people were killed and dozens injured in the blast. A militant separatist group fighting the government in the northern state of Kashmir claimed responsibility for the explosion (Reuters photo)

Syria warns Turkey

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria on Tuesday blasted Turkey for boosting its military ties with Israel and said such a step would provoke the Turkish Muslim people and drag Ankara into conflicts.

Syrian information officials also accused Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz of adopting hostile policies against neighbouring Syria and said Damascus retained the right to confront any military alliance that threatened its security.

"The Turkish-Israeli military deal is an affront to the Arab world," the Syrian government said. "The deal is a betrayal of the Arab world and a betrayal of the Syrian people," said a Syrian official.

Mr. Wadi added in a front-page commentary: "The government of Yilmaz has escalated its hostile language against Syria and Arabs and increased the uncoordinated statements which escalate tension and push ties to more deterioration."

Mr. Wadi's remarks came a day after the head of Turkey's navy began a visit to Israel to further boost military ties after both states signed a military cooperation deal in February.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel escaped an assassination attempt on Saturday by a lone gunman who said he was protesting the military agreement, whose articles were kept secret. The would-be assassin was overpowered by Mr. Demirel's bodyguards.

First word of Turkey's February military deal with Israel, which leaked to Turkish newspapers last month, touched off sharp criticism from Muslim states, charging Ankara with a betrayal of solidarity against the Jewish state.

"The Turkish authorities have brought the Zionist monster, whose teeth and nails are stained with the blood of the innocent people in Lebanon and Palestine into the Turkish society," Mr. Wadi said.

"Such a step constitutes a clear provocation of the feelings of the Islamic people of Turkey... it drags Turkey into conflicts that it has nothing to do with," he added.

Turkey's state-run Anatolian news agency said Admiral Guven Erkaya arrived in Israel on Monday to visit a naval base at Haifa and ammunition production centre as guest of his Israeli counterpart, Major-General Alex Tal.

The media said Turkey and Israel would hold joint naval exercises but there was no official confirmation of the report.

Another official daily, Al Baath, said Damascus would not allow its territory to be used to attack Turkey but at the same time would not remain idle towards any alliance that endangers its security.

"Syria, which repeatedly affirmed its rejection of the launching of any aggressive action against Turkey from its lands, reiterates its commitment to its legitimate right to confront any military alliance that threatens its security," it said.

Higher Court dismisses challenge to mobile phone license agreement

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Higher Court of Justice on Tuesday dismissed a case filed by the National Company for Telecommunications challenging a government decision last year to grant a licence for mobile telephones to a local firm associated with an American company listed in the Arab boycott of Israel.

The case was seen as setting a precedent in terms of Jordan and the decades-old Arab boycott of Israel following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in October 1994.

Following the signing of the treaty, Jordan amended all its internal laws and regulations that had blocked economic and commercial relations with Israel, but a boycott of Israel law has not been formally repealed. However, the amendments to other legislation have effectively replaced the boycott of Israel law.

The case involving the mobile phone services,

however, was based on an argument that on the day the decision was taken to license the Jordan Mobile Phone Services Company, the boycott of Israel law was effective, and, as such, the decision was null and void.

Ruling against the National Company for Telecommunications, the Higher Court of Justice found that "all decisions and measures taken in the course of awarding this tender (for cellular phone services in Jordan) and issuing the licence were sound and correct and in harmony with the Jordanian laws and regulations concerning tenders." A legal source said.

According to businessmen familiar with the case, the basis for the lawsuit was that the government awarded the contract to the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Company (Fastlink), which is associated with the American giant Motorola, despite what the plaintiffs saw as a clear failure of the company to provide a key certificate along with its tender.

That certificate, supposed to have been issued by the Jordanian government, would have affirmed that the company was not affiliated with any firm which was in the Arab boycott list.

The failure to provide the certificate, according to the plaintiff, was a major breach of the conditions attached to the tender.

Motorola's name was in the blacklist "on the day when the tenders were opened and therefore it was a failure, according to the plaintiff, on the part of the company to meet the full conditions," said a businessman.

The licence was issued to the Jordan Mobile Services Company, whose offer topped all others at a minimum of JD 38 million in revenues to the government in five years, several million dinars higher than all other offers.

Under the agreement, the company paid JD 10 million upon signature of the contract, and provided a bank

(Continued on page 7)

Opposition criticises foreign policy

By Mervat Suwadeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A coalition of nine opposition parties on Tuesday strongly criticised the government's foreign policy, which, they contended, was a reflection of U.S. policies aiming at pressuring Iraq and Syria and promoting Israel's role in the region.

The opposition parties also accused the government of adding to the "suffering" of the Jordanians to "distract them from questioning its policies."

"The government's policies are an extreme response to U.S. policies and priorities in the region," said the coalition spokesman, Tayseer Himsi. "These policies are doomed to fail especially when the government takes part in alliances that aim at pressuring neighbouring Arab countries, namely Syria and Iraq," Mr. Himsi told a press conference.

The opposition parties also urged the Palestinian people to reject any form of federation or confederation with Jordan during the final status negotiations slated to resume after the May 29 Israeli general elections.

"It is well known that the future political links between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority were discussed during the Cairo summit despite the government's constant denial of confederation or federation plans with the Palestinian National Authority," said Deputy Mohammad Owaideh of the Islamic Action Front.

Dr. Owaideh, whose party has become increasingly critical of the government following four months of a tacit truce between them, said any federation or confederation between the Kingdom and the Palestinians would harm the Palestinian case and will help Israel "shirk its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people."

(Continued on page 7)

8 COLUMN

Baby born in flight

CHICAGO (R) — When continental flight 1435 touched down in Cleveland it had picked up a passenger — a baby girl born in the restroom. Nguyen Pham and her new daughter "are both in excellent shape," a spokeswoman for Continental Airlines said. The airline said Pham, her husband and another child were flying to Cleveland from Chicago when she went into labour, went to the restroom and delivered the child with help from flight attendants and a doctor who was a passenger. The baby was born two minutes before the flight landed in Cleveland.

Welsh village poised for European adventure

CARDIFF (R) — A tiny Welsh village with two pubs and a population of 954 has been celebrating after their local amateur team qualified to join European soccer's top clubs in next season's Cup Winners Cup competition. Llanfair-ym-Muallt, a rural community with no previous claims to fame, will join the likes of Paris St. Germain and Liverpool after winning a penalty shoot-out against professional opponents Barry Town in the Welsh Cup Final. At the nearby cattle market, the entire population are waiting to discover who their local heroes will be drawn against.

Hong Kong yachtsmen vote to keep 'Royal' tag

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong yachtsmen voted Monday to keep the name of their club "Royal," a move some fear puts them on a collision course with China's Communist authorities after Britain hands the colony over in 1997. For a second time in under a year, members of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC), one of Hong Kong's few remaining bastions of British colonial customs and privilege, agonised then opted to hang on to their "Royal" tag, if only by default.

Volcano may have hastened Napoleon's Waterloo

LONDON (R) — Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815 may have been aided by the eruption of a volcano in the East Indies, a British magazine said. The Geographical Magazine said unusually heavy rains which made the ground between Paris and Brussels almost impassable hampered Napoleon's attempt to launch an attack on Brussels. Geologist Kenneth Spink was quoted as saying many geologists believe the heavy rains were caused by the eruption in April 1815 of Tambora, a volcano on an island in Indonesia.

Scots couple set up Loch Ness Monster Fan Club

INVERNESS, Scotland (R) — A Scottish couple set up a Loch Ness Monster Fan Club after reporting that they caught sight of the legendary creature. "We feel there should be a fan club dedicated to Nessie. I worked at a hotel on the shores of Loch Ness and tourists were always asking if there was a club they could join," said its founder, Kathy Campbell. She and her husband Gary decided to act after spotting something lurking in the loch earlier this year. "I saw something very large break the surface and then it just disappeared. I am convinced it was Nessie," Gary said.

Rights groups protest over activist's arrest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Three U.S. human rights groups and a Palestinian rights organisation criticised the Palestinian National Authority on Tuesday over its arrest of a Gaza human rights activist who had called it corrupt and dictatorial.

Palestinian Prosecutor General Khaled Al Qidra said on Sunday that police had arrested Iyad Al Sarraj on Saturday and charged him with "distortion and slander."

Dr. Sarraj, a psychiatrist and human rights activist, was detained once last year on the same charges. "This time, he was quoted in the New York Times newspaper as saying that the Palestinian regime, in charge of the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank since 1994, was "corrupt, dictatorial, and oppressive."

On Tuesday, three U.S. human rights groups — Human Rights Watch, the International Human Rights Law Group and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Centre for Human Rights — said they had protested against the arrest.

"We are deeply concerned at the apparent pattern of arrest and detention of activists who criticise the Palestinian authority," the U.S. rights groups said in a joint letter to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"The purpose of these detentions appears to be to punish or intimidate those who wish to express criticism and dissent," said the letter, which was also sent to the media.

Nabil Amr, a member of the Palestinian Legislative

(Continued on page 7)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel to expel Syrian soldier

TEL AVIV (R) — A court in northern Israel on Tuesday ordered the expulsion of a 20-year-old Syrian soldier who had crossed into Israel to escape an unhappy life in Syria, Israel Radio said. The radio said it was not clear yet whether the soldier, from Darisat village, would be sent back to Syria or to another country. The soldier penetrated the Israeli-Syrian border on May 12 before his capture by Israeli security forces, the radio said. It said he was not happy with his life, deciding to defect after his commanders decided to send him to a faraway base. The court in acre ordered he remain in custody for another 15 days while arrangements are made for his expulsion.

Assad featured in Israeli election posters

TEL AVIV (AP) — Jerusalem looked a little bit like Damascus on Tuesday, and many residents did a double take after passing posters featuring Syrian President Hafez Al Assad plastered on billboards in the city centre. The unsigned posters show a charcoal sketch of Mr. Assad's head perched atop the Golan Heights and hovering over the Sea of Galilee. A question written in Hebrew asks, "Who will you vote for?"

Syria's minister of Islamic endowments dies

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's Minister of Islamic Endowments Abdul Majid Tarabulsi has died after a long illness, officials said on Tuesday. They said that Tarabulsi died on Monday aged 70 and was to be buried on Tuesday in his hometown of Homs, 200 kilometres north of Damascus. No replacement has been announced yet for the post which Tarabulsi held since 1987.

Israeli official in Muscat to open office

MUSCAT (R) — An Israeli official who will head his country's first trade mission in a Gulf Arab state and was holding talks with Omani Foreign Ministry officials in Muscat on Tuesday, diplomats said. They said Oded Benhaim arrived in Muscat on Monday night at the head of an Israeli delegation preparing to open the trade office in Muscat. It was not clear when a formal ceremony would be held. Oman and Israel agreed last year to exchange trade missions and take other steps to boost cooperation but stopped short of forging official diplomatic relations.

Israeli newspaper folds after 71 years

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Davar Rishon newspaper folded on Tuesday, 71 years after its founding, saying it was unable to attract investors who could keep it running. The daily had failed in its plans to merge with Telegraph, a daily business newspaper which closed on Monday after three years in business. The Hissadrut trade unions federation started the newspaper as Davar, a mouthpiece for Zionism and the pre-state labour movement.

Kuwait sees benefits in Iraq oil deal

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will cheer an oil-for-food pact between former occupier Iraq and the United Nations because it could hasten payment of Gulf war compensation and reduce pressure for lifting sanctions, officials and diplomats said on Tuesday.

But the emirate, occupied by Iraq in 1990-91, will stick to its position that it will not lower its oil production to make way for revived Iraqi oil exports, they said.

"Kuwait's position is already known. It is not ready to cut production," one oil industry source said by telephone.

"We were among the first to ask Iraq to accept the agreement because it was the

only way to improve the conditions of the Iraqi people," a senior official who declined to be identified said.

The accord allows Iraq, which has the world's second largest oil reserves, to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy food and medicine for its people, suffering under more than five years of strict economic sanctions.

The sale, subject to renewal, is an exemption to sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. The plan deducts 30 per cent of revenue for a Gulf war reparations fund and smaller sums to meet U.N. costs for disarmament in Iraq. "It's great news," Kuwaiti

compensation official Adel Assem said by telephone.

Mr. Assem, general manager of the Public Authority for Compensation for Damages Resulting from Iraq aggression, said his preliminary estimate was oil sale revenue might be available for use in compensation payments in about four months' time.

Over the past five years Kuwait has filed claims of about \$100 billion for damage resulting from Iraq's seven-month occupation. So far 80,000 Kuwaiti claims worth a total of about \$460 million have been approved by a U.N. compensation committee.

The signing of the accord will also help Kuwait by

removing some of the humanitarian basis for Iraq's campaign for the lifting or easing of the U.N. Security Council sanctions.

Iraq's diplomatic offensive has at times cast Kuwait in the role of a vengeful and hard-hearted former foe seeking maximum punishment for the occupation.

Kuwait has responded by emphasising that the issue of sanctions is one between Iraq and the Security Council. It has expressed grave concern over humanitarian suffering in Iraq and sends regular aid shipments to tens of thousands of Iraqi Gulf war refugees sheltering in neighbouring Iran.

International team says Security Council is violating U.N. Charter

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A report by an international study team documenting the impact of sanctions on Iraqi civilians with a particular focus on child health has charged the U.N. Security Council with procedural and substantive violations of the U.N. Charter and international law.

According to the report, the Security Council has violated its procedural duties by failing to "acknowledge its own legal responsibility to protect the rights of Iraqi civilians suffering under sanctions," and monitor the impact of sanctions on human rights.

Furthermore, the report asserted that the Security Council violated the substance of international and human rights law by denying Iraqi children the right to life, "considered by the U.N. Human Rights Committee the supreme right from which no derogation is permitted even in time of public emergency," and by violating the well-established legal norms of the

Geneva Convention which prohibits "any attack which may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilians' objects... which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated."

The report, which was realised in New York on Sunday, in London on Monday and here on Tuesday, was prepared by the New York based Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) after a one-month mission of 24 researchers and lawyers from eight different countries.

Presenting the report, Sa'ad Hamid, Middle East project coordinator at the CESR, said that Security Council Resolution 661 adopted in August 1990 following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, represented "the most comprehensive sanctions system in history," placing a total ban on all Iraqi imports and exports.

"We produced a legal report to challenge the legality of the sanctions," Mr. Hamid told a press conference.

Confirming the results of several studies conducted after the Gulf war, asserting a dramatic increase in the infant mortality rate and estimating that over half a million children have died as a result of sanctions, the CESR report identified "two synergistic factors" of infant mortality: "Poor nutrition and increased prevalence of disease, compounded by inadequate health services."

Prior to sanctions, potable water networks served 93 and 70 per cent respectively of the urban and rural population, the report said, today "water plants throughout Iraq are now operating at extremely limited capacity, and the sewage system has virtually ceased to function."

"The argument of the Security Council, according to which the Iraqi regime bears the responsibility because it has the means to alleviate the people's suffering but does not act accordingly, is inadmissible," Mr. Hamid said.

Referring to allegations made in the past by U.S. Representative at the Secur-

ity Council Madeleine Albright according to which the Iraqi government had access to \$1 billion but used that money to build palaces and mansions, Mr. Hamid said his team travelled all over Iraq "without seeing or hearing about such mansions."

"First of all, it is inadmissible to hold this kind of argument because the Security Council is responsible for the humanitarian rights of the Iraqi people, regardless their government's strategies and policies," Mr. Hamid said. Opposing Ms. Albright's allegations against the Iraqi regime, Mr. Hamid said that, on the contrary, the team found out that "the (Iraqi) government is prioritising the humanitarian need for its people, especially maintaining a beneficial rationing system."

According to the CESR report, the food rationing system instituted by the Iraqi government in September 1990, one month after the Security Council imposed the

(Continued on page 7)

Handwritten signature: J. Al-Khatib